

**Viduka to rejoin Soccerroos**

AFP, Sydney  
Soccerroos captain Mark Viduka indicated Tuesday he would return to the Australian national team for next year's Asian Cup.

Viduka considered giving up international football after leading Australia into the last 16 of the World Cup in Germany to concentrate on his club career, he told the official website of Middlesbrough Football Club.

"A lot of us were thinking when we got to those sorts of highs, is it going to get any better than this?" he said.

However he has changed his mind and now plans to rejoin the Soccerroos, the website said.

"It's a big commitment playing for Australia because there's such a lot of travelling and it means being away from the family and not being able to concentrate fully on playing for your club," the 30-year-old said.

The Middlesbrough striker missed the recent Asian Cup qualifier against Kuwait - which Australia lost 2-0 - to be with his pregnant wife.

"I've come to an agreement with (Australia's interim coach) Graham (Arnold) because my wife is pregnant... so I want to be with her at this time," he said.

With his wife due to give birth in October, Viduka is unlikely to play in the Soccerroos' final Asian Cup qualifier against Bahrain around the same time, he said.

"I don't know if I will play in the next game... we've already qualified anyway," he said.

Next year's Asian Cup will be held in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam next July.



Reading player Ibrahim Sonko (back) applies pressure on Manchester City's Italian forward Bernardo Corradi as he receives the ball during their Premiership encounter at Reading on Monday.

**City crash at Reading**

AFP, Reading



Monday with a hard-fought 1-0 win over a toothless Manchester City side relegated to 10 men for the last 10 minutes.

Reading, who surged into eighth place in the Premiership, had the head of Icelandic defender Ivar Ingimarsson to thank for the win at Madejski Stadium.

Ingimarsson showed great courage to blast a header past the diving City captain Sylvain Distin and goalkeeper Nicky Weaver from a free-kick whipped in to the far post by Bobby Convey in the 22nd minute.

The result left Manchester City with just one goal in their opening four matches of the season, that a penalty, and the loss was the club's 15th in the last 17 top tier away games.

Reading boss Steve Coppell expressed his delight after his team's second win of the season after the opening 3-2 upset of Middlesbrough.

"It was margins right throughout the game," Coppell said. "We scored the goal in the first-half and that gave us the incentive to hang on for the win."

Despite enjoying the lion's share of possession early on, City's maskmen were found to be woefully lacking.

But City boss Stuart Pearce said he had been happy with his side's passing football and insisted that the goals would come if his players continued to create chances.

"We passed the ball around very well, but we have not got a result tonight. It was one of those evenings when whoever gets the first goal wins," said Pearce.

Reading's American keeper Marcus Hahneemann was called into action in 13th minute palming away a shot from Paul Dickov, who then blasted an ambitious 25-yard effort well wide a minute later.

City upped the pressure and striker Bernado Corradi went close in the centre of the box after a great run by Warren Barton in the 21st minute.

But against the odds, it was Reading who took the lead through Ingimarsson.

Corradi had a chance to draw the scores equal shortly after but the Italian's header was hit weakly into the ground in front of Hahneemann.

Ingimarsson almost made it 2-0 after a deflection squirmed out to the left of the goal area, but the defender's well-hit shot was tipped

over the bar by Weaver. An unopposed Seol Ki-Hyeon then misth his header over the bar just before half-time.

Georgios Samaras had a chance for City with his first chance after coming on as a replacement for Dickov in the 60th minute, but his bobbling shot was well dealt with by Hahneemann.

Samaras went close seven minutes later, beating Reading's imperious central defender Ibrahim Sonko with a shot that was tipped around the post.

But as City pushed so Reading hit back on the break with the fleet-footed from trio of Leroy Lita, Kevin Doyle and Convey causing more problems for the away side's back four.

City's night got worse when Ousmane Dabo was red-carded for an elbow-led challenge on Steve Sidwell with 10 minutes to play.

Samaras just failed to get a decent header on a Hatem Traabelsi cross in the dying minutes.

Weaver saved any further City blushes, brilliantly palming away a swerving shot by impressive Reading sub Brynjar Gunnarsson.

Doyle almost made it 2-0 four minutes into injury time, but Distin was on hand to slide his goal-bound shot behind the line.

**Hamburg test for Arsenal**

AFP, Hamburg



face SV Hamburg in the first Champions League Group G match.

Last season's runners-up Arsenal, who lost 2-1 to Barcelona in the Paris final, have had a wretched start to the 2006/07 season and lie fourth from bottom of the Premiership table after failing to win any of their first three matches.

On Sunday Arsenal face a mammoth duel against league leaders Manchester United but manager Arsene Wenger wants to concentrate on the task in hand.

"Let's focus on Europe. If we get a good result in Hamburg we'll go in good condition to Man Utd," Wenger said.

"I can't say that I am unconcerned by our start to the season. We are lacking a bit of sharpness because half the team has been away for the whole summer playing football."

Forward Thierry Henry has looked far from his best - after a gruelling summer in which he played the entire World Cup with finalists France - and Wenger will hope his star striker turns on the style.

Henry has 49 goals in Europe (including 41 in the Champions League) to his name and will hope to bring up the half century landmark against Hamburg.

German international goalkeeper Jens Lehmann also has a personal goal in mind as he bids to extend his record run without conceding a goal in the competition.

Arsenal conceded twice in the final defeat to Barcelona but Lehmann was sent off after 18 minutes with the score at 0-0 and his record stands at

12 hours and 43 minutes. Wenger has been forced to reshuffle the defence for the Hamburg clash with French international William Gallas set to be shoehorned in at left back - ironically the position he detested at Chelsea - as Gael Clichy is injured.

Inexperienced Swiss defender Johan Djourou is set to partner Kolo Toure in central defence.

Hamburg have problems of their own with Dutch international playmaker Rafael van der Vaart, Argentina captain Juan Pablo Sorin and Cameroon defender Thimothee Atouba all sidelined.

The last time Hamburg faced English opposition in Europe was in the 1980 European Cup final when they lost 1-0 to Nottingham Forest.

The 1983 European champions disappeared off the European radar

for the next two decades and are making only their second appearance in the Champions League, and their first since 2001.

Like Arsenal the German club have had a torrid start to the season failing to win any of their first three league matches and suffering a humiliating cup defeat to regional side Stuttgart Kickers over the weekend.

"We are in a dip at the moment but we need to forget about the cup loss and concentrate on Wednesday's match against Arsenal," said Hamburg coach Thomas Doll.

"We need to show a positive reaction and I am sure my team will do that."

Wenger will demand the same from his players.



Inter Milan striker Hernan Crespo speaks on the phone as he leaves the airport in Lisbon on Monday prior to their Champions League clash against Sporting.

**Knee op will extend Owen's career**

INTERNET, undated

Newcastle striker Michael Owen insists he will not only return to his best after his cruciate knee ligament surgery but believes his career will be extended by the operation.

The 26-year-old England international is aiming for a return to action in April after renowned Colorado-based surgeon Dr Richard Steadman repaired the joint damaged in the summer's World Cup.

"I want to be back to what I've been for the last 10 years," he told the Daily Mirror.

"Twenty years ago if you had this injury you were finished, but now it's a 99% success rate."

"Obviously I want this right for the rest of my career and that is the most important thing."

"But the plus side is that with the extra strength the operation will give me, I could get another couple of years added to the end of my career."

**Rivals love to hate Chelsea: Boulharouz**

AFP, London

Chelsea's recently signed Dutch defender Khalid Boulharouz said he has been stunned by how rival players, and their cheeky fans, will behave to show their hatred of the London club.

Chelsea face German side Werder Bremen in the Champions League later Tuesday in a bid to begin a campaign which, last season, ended before the quarter-finals stage.

Since arriving from SV Hamburg last month, Boulharouz has been stunned by a combination of cheeky antics and the efforts some teams make when playing against Jose Mourinho's expensively-assembled side.

"It's unbelievable how much venom surfaces when Chelsea are the opponents," Boulharouz told The Sun.

"Against Blackburn, not only were we kept up all night by hoax wake-up calls at the hotel, but on the pitch they used every means possible."

"The next game against Middlesbrough, they went at it intensively for 90 minutes and beat us."

"Then a week later at home against Portsmouth they (Middlesbrough) lose 4-0."

**Diarra knowledge could be key**

REUTERS, Madrid

Mali midfielder Mahamadou Diarra is ready to use his inside knowledge to help Real Madrid avenge last season's Champions League defeat by his former club Olympique Lyon.

Diarra, a member of the Lyon side that dealt Real a humiliating 3-0 defeat in their opening group game, is confident things will be different when they meet again at the Stade Gerland on Wednesday.

"It was 3-0 last year and this year it is going to be difficult again," Diarra told the Real Madrid Web site on Tuesday. "But I'm sure of one thing and that is that I don't want to go back there to lose."

"I'm familiar with French football and I know what we have to do to avoid losing. We are capable of springing a surprise."

The 25-year-old joined Real for 26 million euros (\$33.06 million) during the close season after forcing Lyon to release him by threatening not to play for them again.

Diarra, who had been signed at the express request of Real's new coach Fabio Capello, said he was unsure how he would be received on his return to Lyon.

"I don't know how the fans will react," he said. "Maybe some people will cheer me for the four seasons that I was there, but I'm not sure. Anyway, I have to be focused on the game and can't afford to get nervous about that."

**Aragones explains change of heart**

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Spain coach Luis Aragones has said he changed his mind about quitting because the Spanish Federation (RFEF) and his coaching assistants convinced him he had no reason to throw in the towel.

The 68-year-old offered his resignation after the Spanish media called for his head following Spain's 3-2 defeat by Northern Ireland in a Euro 2008 qualifier last Wednesday.

"I originally thought that I should

resign because of the bad result, but they (the RFEF) wouldn't accept my decision," Aragones told Spanish television station Telecinco on Monday evening.

"I still thought I would resign up until five in the afternoon, but when I met with my assistants they persuaded me to change my mind."

"I decided that I should continue because they all said we weren't in a desperate situation and that we could still qualify for Euro 2008."

Aragones denied his change of heart had been influenced by the fact that he would not receive any financial compensation if he resigned.

"It wasn't down to the money, it was more to do with the people around me."

It is not the first time that Aragones has changed his mind about quitting his post.

Before the World Cup, he said he would leave if Spain failed to reach the quarterfinals. His side lost in the second round to eventual finalists France, but Aragones decided to stay on.

Spain, who lie in fifth place in Group F after two matches, play group leaders Sweden in Solna on Oct. 7 in their next Euro 2008 qualifier.

**Only the world will do**

Football

AFP, London

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho insists winning the Champions League would not be enough to satisfy his desire for world domination.

Mourinho regrets missing out on the chance to become a world champion after leaving Porto before they played in the Intercontinental Cup, a one-off match between the champions of Europe and South America to determine the worlds best club side.

Porto won the right to contest the match after Mourinho led them to Champions League victory in 2004 and they went on to claim the world title against Colombia's Once Caldas in Tokyo.

The tournament is now called the FIFA Club World Championship and features the champions of every continent, with Brazil's Sao Paulo the current holders.

Whatever the format, Mourinho admits competing for a world title is a driving force behind his desire to win the Champions League for a second time.

He said: "I made one mistake in Porto. I left there when I was European champion."

"I could have won the Intercontinental Cup and I didn't because I left to come to Chelsea."

"So, if one day I win the Champions League again, I want to win the Intercontinental Cup and not give it to another manager to win."

"If Chelsea win the Champions League I could not leave them because I don't want to miss out on becoming a world champion."

But to reach that stage Mourinho knows his side, who play their first fixture in this season's Champions League against Werder Bremen at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday, will have to overcome stiff opposition from Europe's top clubs.

He said: "For me a minimum of 10 clubs can win the Champions League and I think we are one of the 10 favourites."

"When you speak about the players Chelsea have signed it is correct to say we should be stronger and a contender for the competition."

"But Barcelona are the champions and have signed (Gianluca) Zambrotta and (Eidur) Gudjohnsen. Real Madrid have four or five top quality new players."

"Arsenal have many great players, Manchester United is a

big team. Inter Milan have, in terms of numbers and quality, the best squad in the world at the moment."

"There is pressure for us to win but I can live with it. I don't say I like it or hate it. I just live with it."

Mourinho is an admirer of Werder, who finished second in the German league last season, and knows they will not be intimidated by the English champions.

He admitted the group, which also includes Barcelona and Bulgaria's Levski Sofia is certain to provide some tricky moments and said: "It could have been an easier draw. We want just to qualify, if possible

first, but if not then second."

"Since I arrived at Chelsea, for three consecutive seasons we have had the European champions in our group. So it is never easy for us."

"They (Werder) are the best of third seeds. I don't think they are afraid of us. If you speak about a small team with inexperienced players, maybe they would be afraid."

"But Bremen are a good team in Germany with internationals who have played in the World Cup. They will not fear coming to play us."

"I think they respect us and they know they are in a very difficult group but they have ambitions to qualify."



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho gestures during a press conference in Stamford Bridge on Monday.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Chinese dog breed  
 5 Entreaty  
 9 "Great!"  
 12 Emanation  
 13 Ladder component  
 14 Right angle  
 15 Metal dross  
 16 Hodge-podge  
 17 Greek vowel  
 18 Headlight?  
 19 Oktoberfest item  
 20 Amorphous mass  
 21 Slight bite  
 23 Ruin the veneer  
 25 Had better rethink  
 28 A Musketeer  
 32 Dizzying designs  
 33 Duck
- DOWN**  
 1 Moolah  
 2 Luau entertainment  
 3 Exam format  
 4 Oater caravan  
 5 Cue  
 6 Lollapalooza  
 7 Baffler  
 8 Past  
 9 Sense  
 10 Sax range  
 11 Spill the beans  
 20 Source of easy money  
 22 Preamble answers  
 25 Cattle call  
 26 Boom times  
 27 Pouch  
 29 Welcome sight?  
 30 "— not choose to run"  
 31 Yen fraction  
 35 Grab  
 36 Eye  
 39 "Monopoly" card  
 40 Suitable  
 41 "— off to see..."  
 43 "It's impossible" singer  
 45 Destroy  
 46 "Cheers" order  
 47 Emulated leader  
 49 Perched
- Solution time: 27 mins.**
- M I D O R I E A C A M P  
 A S F E A R L A R E A  
 O P E N F I R E R I N G  
 N O I A L E A S E  
 H A S N T R O U E  
 E C H O C O N T R O L S  
 R H O V A G U E P E A  
 D E F R I V E S D E S K  
 U V U L A V E N O S E  
 R I L L A O P E N T O E D  
 A N N O P E R I O W E  
 L E A N S W A M R E B

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			

**CRYPTOQUIP**  
 O X H L Y U H V J T L ' J R T I M J  
 R Z J B U X G J M W Y K K Y I T V ,  
 O T Z K C G T Z J Y G B X Y B X H  
 H Y V L J Y E Y L Z Y K M L W T E H ?  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** IF A CHEF GIVES GREAT PERSONAL ATTENTION TO DISHES HE PREPARES, IS THAT TENDER OVEN CARE?  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G 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.