

Aragones receives backing

Under-fire Spain coach Luis Aragonese on Monday got the dreaded vote of confidence from the national football federation despite his team having lost two of their opening three Group F Euro qualifiers.



Charlton Athletic striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (L) shrugs off the challenge of Fulham midfielder Michael Brown in their Premiership clash at Craven Cottage on Monday.

Fulham continue Charlton misery

Londoners 2-1 to record their first win in four league matches. Two goals in two minutes from veteran American international Brian McBride and Claus Jensen - against his former club - gave Fulham breathing space while Charlton got one back late on through Darren Bent, who has scored six of their seven Premiership goals this season.

Carbone to leave Sydney

Italian Benito Carbone's tenure at Sydney FC is over after three games when the Australian A-League champions failed to reach an agreement to extend his four-match guest contract, the club said Tuesday.

Bremen not complacent

German international midfielder Torsten Frings says Werder Bremen should be wary of overconfidence going into Wednesday's vital Champions League match with Levski Sofia.

Manchester directors resign

Two Manchester United directors, finance director Nick Humby and commercial director Andy Anson, have resigned from their posts.

Drogba accuses Hunt

Chelsea striker Didier Drogba has accused Reading's Stephen Hunt of intentionally injuring goalkeeper Petr Cech during Saturday's Premier League match.

Cech underwent surgery and has since regained full consciousness and is improving, Chelsea said on Monday. Cech's replacement, Carlo Cudicini, was also knocked out later in the game going for a high ball in the goalmouth.

had written to Cech wishing him a quick recovery and was adamant the collision in the opening minute was accidental. "I can guarantee that I did not attempt to injure Petr and I am very upset that the collision has resulted in such a bad injury," he said.

Bayern aim for top spot

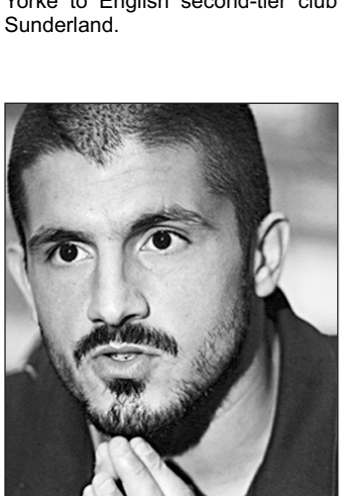
Sporting are at full strength as key midfielder Nani is expected to overcome a minor knock to start for Paulo Bento's side.

Bayern currently lead Group B with six points having beaten both Inter and Spartak Moscow and have yet to concede a goal, while Sporting lead.

would be difficult to leave the Dutchman out for such a big fixture. With Mehmet Scholl ruled out of the trip due to a pulled muscle, Magath will have little choice but to stick with a very attack-minded formation.

Table with 10 columns and 6 rows listing football clubs and their statistics (goals, assists, etc.). Clubs include Man United, Chelsea, Bolton, Portsmouth, Arsenal, and Aston Villa.

had the ball up. I'm delighted he has started to score goals for us this season," added the former Wales international defender. Charlton boss Iain Dowie, who succeeded Alan Curbishley in the summer after he resigned, said that everyone at the club had to stick together.



Gattuso dismisses Rangers talk

AC Milan and Italy midfielder Rino Gattuso has dismissed reports that he wants to end his career with Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers. Gattuso, who played for Rangers in the 1997-98 season before returning to Italy, said he was misquoted in an interview he gave to the British press.

Inter's hopes in the balance

our four remaining group games," said Inter owner Massimo Moratti after the club's 2-1 home win against Catania on Sunday which saw them go top of Serie A.

Argentine striker Hernan Crespo, who has been out of action for two weeks with a left thigh strain, could return for Inter if deemed fit. Spartak have a poor record against Italian teams in European competition, with three defeats and three draws in six visits to the peninsula.

Chievo sack Pillon

Chievo have sacked their coach Giuseppe Pillon, the struggling Serie A club confirmed on Monday. Pillon paid the price for the club's poor start to the season with five defeats in their six matches played and a first round exit in the UEFA Cup.



Sporting Lisbon's rising star Nani (L) controls the ball on his chest during a training session at the Sporting Academy in Lisbon on Tuesday. Sporting will face Bayern tonight.

First goal crucial: Gudjohnsen

Barcelona's Icelandic striker Eidur Gudjohnsen has warned his team mates of the dangers of allowing Chelsea to score first in Wednesday's Champions League clash at Stamford Bridge.

Solskjaer should be role model: Fergie

Solskjaer's place in Old Trafford folklore is guaranteed after scoring in United's epic 1999 Champions League victory over Bayern Munich in Barcelona.

Ole has kept his feet on the ground and has retained his humility all his career which is a wonderful quality to have. "Ole, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Gary Neville are without question from the same stock.

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a 'Solution time: 27 mins.' box and a 'CRYPTOQUIP' section with the clue 'Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MOVIE IN WHICH AN UNDERHAND ACTRESS BECOMES HEMMED IN ON ALL SIDES: "WALL ABOUT EVE."'

Cryptoquip puzzle grid and clues. Includes the clue: 'Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals R'.