

## EPL players suffer porn addiction!

INTERNET, undated

Addiction to internet pornography is a growing problem among cash-rich Premiership players with time on their hands according to Peter Kay, the chief executive of the Sporting Chance clinic.

Sporting Chance has been assisting sportsmen and women with addictive illnesses since its foundation in 2000.

Kay revealed that while there have been high-profile cases of gambling, drink and drug problems among professional footballers, an increasing number are now switching on their laptops and accessing pornographic websites to fill their time between playing matches and training.

"When you start going into a porn site it leads on to other porn sites and then maybe more risky material," Kay told BBC Radio Five Live.

"It must be stressed that if a 21-year-old is scanning a bit of porn and accessing pleasure from it, doing that once then that is not unusual and nor is it a problem.

"It becomes a problem when he is doing it 14, 15, 16 times and then when he stops, he is playing a football game and he is thinking 'I can't wait to get back to that site'."

Five Live also interviewed an unnamed Premiership player who admitted how he had fallen foul of internet sites offering thrills of one description or another.

"You can get hooked on anything, going on one site for two minutes isn't enough," he said.

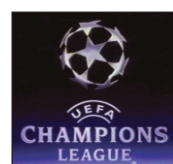
"You don't realise how much you're spending until you see it on your bill at the end of the month.

"On porn websites you have got advertisements for the porn and you end up spending more money on there. It's kind of like kids in a sweet shop.

"We finish at lunchtimes with our jobs and you can sit there for hours on end."

# Ex-champs set to book passage

AFP, Paris



Former champions AC Milan, Real Madrid, Celtic and Manchester United, plus inform French champions Lyon, have the chance to book their valuable last 16 ticket in the Champions League on Wednesday night.

Celtic's return to Benfica's Stadium of Light, where they became the first British winner, is full of nostalgia after the club invited eight of the surviving Lisbon Lions to the match as part of the 40th anniversary celebrations of that 1966/67 triumph.

Lyon, who have never got past the quarter-finals, are on a run of 15 games unbeaten in all competitions following their 1-0 win over Nancy on Sunday and a draw at home to Dynamo Kiev will earn their spot in the knockout stages from Group E.

Lyon have only failed to win a single game this season, a 1-1 draw at home to Toulouse in their second French league match.

Real Madrid, who lost to Lyon in their first match, have won their two matches since and will qualify should they beat visitors Steaua Bucharest and Kiev fail to beat Lyon.

Sir Alex Ferguson will field his strongest available side as Manchester United look to book their place with a win over FC Copenhagen in Denmark.

Three straight wins have left United at the top of group F and a point would be enough to secure qualification if Celtic can take anything from their trip to Lisbon.

But Ferguson is determined to maintain the momentum of United's flying start to the season against the Danish champions, who paid the price of attempting to take on the Red Devils at their own attacking game when they went down to a 3-0 defeat at Old Trafford on October 17.

The Scot, who will celebrate 20 years in charge of United on November 6, insisted: "One point isn't enough, so we're going to try and win it. We want to keep the form right so I'll be playing my strongest team.

"Copenhagen are a good technical and organised team and their approach play was very good at Old Trafford in the last game. But we played well on the night and could have scored a few more goals.

"I don't expect them to change how they play on Wednesday. They'll continue to play their football and I'm sure their approach play will be very good. But as long as we defend properly, I think we have a good chance."

Should Celtic book their last 16 berth in front of captain Billy McNeil and the eight surviving members of

Celtic's 1967 triumph, it would be an emotional night for the Bhoys.

McNeil told uefa.com: "Obviously it's the connection between Lisbon and Celtic which will never be lost, but it's a terrific gesture by the club and one that's greatly appreciated.

"It's the first time the Lions as a group have been asked to go to an away game like this. There have been occasions when a few of us have gone out to games, but to take everybody is fantastic."

McNeil added there was sadness that keeper Ronnie Simpson, midfielder Bobby Murdoch and winger Jimmy Johnstone, who have since died, could not be present.

Celtic have been back to the Stadium of Light just once since, in November 1969 in the second round of the competition, on their way to a final appearance against champions Feyenoord.

Of course Celtic earned a stunning 3-0 win over Benfica two weeks ago but that was at Parkhead in Glasgow.

Arsenal have the chance to put one foot into the knockout stages should they win at home against Group G leaders CSKA Moscow and avenge a defeat by the Russians a fortnight ago though Porto would still be in the running in a three-horse race should they beat bottom club Hamburg in Germany to condemn them to last place.

Out-of-form Hamburg only won their first German league match eight days ago in a 2-1 victory at Bayer Leverkusen.

Six-times champions AC Milan would go through from Group H with a victory at home to Anderlecht should AEK Athens fail to beat Lille in the Greek capital.

### WEDNESDAY'S FIXTURES

<b>Group E</b>	Real Madrid v Steaua Bucharest
	Lyon v Dynamo Kiev
<b>Group F</b>	Benfica v Celtic
	FC Copenhagen v Manchester United
<b>Group G</b>	Arsenal v CSKA Moscow
	Hamburg v Porto
<b>Group H</b>	AEK v Lille
	Milan v Anderlecht

## United lose trio

AFP, London

Manchester United trio Ryan Giggs, Louis Saha and captain Gary Neville will miss Wednesday's Champions League match against FC Copenhagen through injury.

Alex Ferguson confirmed the three players would miss the trip to the Danish capital, and added that Neville would also miss Saturday's Premiership game with Portsmouth after suffering a recurrence of a calf problem which has plagued him for much of the season so far.

Giggs could also miss Saturday's match at Old Trafford after reporting a hamstring injury, while Saha has been ruled out of United's latest European adventure with a knee problem.

There was some good news for Ferguson, with French full-back Patrice Evra reporting fit despite limping out of the weekend win over Bolton with an ankle injury.

However, the triple injury blow did mean the introduction of teenage defender Kieran Lee, scorer of the extra-time Carling Cup winner against Crewe last week, for his first European trip.

"We had a tough game at Bolton

# Last 16 beckons Real

REUTERS, Madrid



Real Madrid are poised to wrap up qualification for the last 16 of the Champions League when they host Steaua Bucharest on Wednesday despite a shaky start to their European campaign under new coach Fabio Capello.

Real suffered a 2-0 defeat at Olympique Lyon in their opening game in Group E but won emphatically against Dynamo Kiev and Steaua.

Another win against the

Romanians will put them through to the knockout stage as long as Dynamo, who have yet to earn a point, do not beat runaway leaders Lyon.

The nine-times European champions may not have been playing the sort of fluent, flowing football their fans demand but they have developed a more gritty, pragmatic style under Capello and are getting the results.

They scored nine goals against Dynamo and Steaua, beat Barca 2-0 in the league two weeks ago and are now just two points behind their arch-rivals.

Real have conceded four goals in eight league games and the team

are growing in confidence according to Brazilian full back Roberto Carlos.

"Capello has brought with him a different, more modern mentality," the 33-year-old told Telemadrid at the weekend. "We are no longer the team that passes the ball slowly round the pitch. We are more direct and we know what we have to do."

Capello has made a number of changes since the defeat by Lyon.

Talented Brazilian forward Robinho has earned himself a place in the starting lineup with a series of live-wire performances on the wing while Ivan Helguera has been transformed from outcast to

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PHOTO: INTERNET  
EYEING A SCALP: Real Madrid strikers Raul Gonzalaz (L) and Ruud van Nistelrooy stretch during a training session in Madrid on Monday. Real play Steaua Bucharest in the Champions League tonight.



PHOTO: INTERNET  
TO BE OR NOT TO BE: Spanish daily El Mundo Deportivo has on its cover a picture of Barcelona sensation Lionel Messi holding a skull and re-enacting the famous scene from Shakespeare's play Hamlet. Messi is posing as Hamlet and the Shakespearean pose is supposed to be in reply to Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho's claims of the 'many theatres in Barcelona'.

## Klinsmann in US talks

REUTERS, Washington

U.S. Soccer federation president Sunil Gulati said on Monday he had talked to former Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann about coaching the national team but no agreement had been reached.

"I'm not going to sit here and deny that we've talked to Juergen Klinsmann since he told (the media) last week that he has had some informal conversations," Gulati told a teleconference.

"We have not made any decisions about who will be coaching our national team. We certainly haven't made any offers."

Klinsmann, who took Germany to the World Cup semi-finals this year, told the New York Times on Friday he was interested in replacing Bruce Arena, whose contract was not renewed after eight years coaching the national team.

Gulati said the federation was still holding discussions with four or five prospective candidates.

"We're looking for someone with a track record of success, that's a number one criteria," Gulati said. "Juergen brings a lot of positive qualities to the possibility of coaching the national team. He had indicated a desire to take some time off and has said that he's now taken some time off and would be open to having a discussion."

Gulati said a decision was expected late next month.

## United seek anniversary present

AFP, Copenhagen

Sir Alex Ferguson will field his strongest available side as Manchester United look to book their place in the Champions League knockout stages with a win over FC Copenhagen here on Wednesday.

Three straight wins have left United at the top of group F and a point would be enough to secure qualification if Celtic can take anything from their trip to Lisbon to face Benfica.

But Ferguson is determined to maintain the momentum of United's flying start to the season against the Danish champions, who paid the price of attempting to take on the Red Devils at their own attacking game when they went down to a 3-0 defeat at Old Trafford on October 17.

The Scot, who will celebrate 20 years in charge of United on November 6, insisted: "One point isn't enough, so we're going to try

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# Blatter meant Italy no harm

AFP, Zurich

FIFA boss Sepp Blatter has denied making comments to the Australian media disparaging World Cup winners Italy for their tactics in the last 16 round game against Australia.

Blatter was quoted as saying that Australia should have played in the quarterfinals instead of eventual champions Italy.

Australia's players and fans were outraged when Spanish referee Luis Medina Cantalejo awarded

Italy a penalty in the fifth minute of stoppage time of their quarter-final after Lucas Neill had brought down Fabio Grosso.

Substitute Francesco Totti converted the penalty to give 10-man Italy a dramatic 1-0 win and a place in the World Cup quarter-finals.

Debate raged over the decision and world governing body FIFA was accused of not addressing the problem of diving and faking injuries in the world game.

In the television interview with SBS Television of Sydney on Sunday, Blatter said referees at this year's cup finals "were not at their best".

He said the antics of players was the real problem for the game.

"I think there was too much cheating on the players' side," Blatter said in the interview.

"I agree with them and I would like to apologise (to) our fans in Australia.

"The Socceroos should have gone into the quarter-finals in place of Italy... you go into extra time and you are 11 against 10. But that is presumptuous."

FIFA insisted that Blatter in no way had intended to criticise the Italian team or their tactics.

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# Brazil recall Diego

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

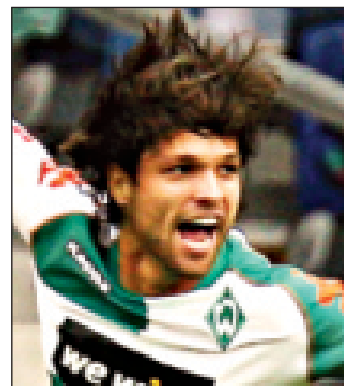
Brazil recalled Werder Bremen midfielder Diego on Monday for a friendly international against Switzerland in Basle on Nov. 15.

The 21-year-old, who has made an excellent start to his Bundesliga career, last played for his country in the Copa America final against Argentina more than two years ago.

Coach Dunga will be defending a four-match unbeaten record as coach since he replaced Carlos Alberto Parreira after this year's World Cup.

Ronaldinho, Robinho and Kaka were included but, as expected, there was no place for out of sorts striker Ronaldo who is struggling for form with Real Madrid.

Dunga, however, refused to rule



DIEGO

out a future return for Ronaldo.

"The door is open for any player, as long as he wants to play for the national team," he told reporters. "We will continue to observe all the candidates."

Dunga's squad included uncapped

midfielder Fernando, who plays for Girondins Bordeaux, and 19-year-old Santos left back Carlinhos, also uncapped.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Julio Cesar (Inter Milan), Helton (Porto)  
**Defenders:** Lucio (Bayern Munich), Juan (Bayer Leverkusen), Luisao (Benfica), Alex (PSV Eindhoven), Daniel Alves (Sevilla), Maicon (Inter Milan), Adriano Correia (Sevilla), Carlinhos (Santos)  
**Midfielders:** Gilberto Silva (Arsenal), Edmilson (Barcelona), Fernando (Bordeaux), Dudu Cearense (CSKA Moscow), Elano (Shakhtar Donetsk), Diego (Werder Bremen), Daniel Carvalho (CSKA Moscow), Kaka (AC Milan)  
**Forwards:** Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Robinho (Real Madrid), Rafael Sobis (Real Betis), Ricardo Oliveira (AC Milan)



PHOTO: AFP  
Pakistan legend Wasim Akram (2nd from R), Indian actor Akshay Kumar (C) and other Special Olympics officials hold a torch at a ceremony to announce the Special Olympics International Cricket Cup at Wagah Border on Tuesday.

## USA accepts Copa America invitation

AP, Chicago

The United States accepted an invitation to play in next year's Copa America in Venezuela, returning to the South American soccer championship for the first time since 1995.

CONCACAF, soccer's governing body for North and Central America and the Caribbean, and its South American counterpart routinely have invited teams from each other's confederation to their nations championship since the early 1990s.

"The tournament offers the dual advantage of quality opponents and a challenging environment that will provide long-term benefits for our team," U.S. Soccer Federation Sunil Gulati said.

The U.S. finished fourth in the 1995 Copa America, beating Argentina in the early stages. The next Copa America is June 26-July 15 and starts two days after the CONCACAF Gold Cup, a tournament in which the U.S. is the defending champion.

The USSF did not say if it will send largely different teams to the competitions, which come in the middle of the Major League Soccer season.

The U.S. has been without a national coach since July 14 when the USSF said it would not renew Bruce Arena's contract. Under Arena, the U.S. reached the

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