

# An Anglo-Dutch match-up again

**NEW YORK, Dec 9:** The draw for the 1994 World Cup qualifiers produced a worrying scenario on Sunday when the two nations with the worst hooligan problems, England and the



**FRANZ BECKENBAUER**  
Netherlands, were pitched into battle once again, reports Reuter.

When Franz Beckenbauer, boss of the West German team which won the 1990 World Cup in Italy, picked out the reigning European champions to meet England in European Group Two, there was a moment of stunned silence among soccer personalities and celebrities in Madison Square Garden.

The two countries were drawn against each other in both the 1988 European Championship finals in Germany and the 1990 World Cup finals, prompting massive security operations to keep their undisciplined fans in check.

The pairing was just one of a remarkable number of repeat encounters in what amounted to a *deja vu* draw to find the 22 qualifiers to reach the finals alongside champions Germany and hosts United States.

Spain were matched with both Ireland and Northern Ireland in Group Three, as they were in the 1990 qualifiers.

Belgium play Czechoslovakia in Group Four, as they did last time round, and in South America former world champions Argentina ended up in the same Group as Colombia once again.

Despite the security concerns, the Dutch were happy to meet England in a six-nation Group including Poland, Norway, Turkey and San Marino from which two teams qualify.

"There's no question, we are eager to play England again," said Dutch official Harry Benn. "We have no fears about another high-risk match. This is a strong group but I think we'll be able to take care of it."

## TAYLOR IS UPBEAT

England, who lost to the Dutch in 1988 and drew in 1990, have more reason to feel nervous but manager Graham Taylor was upbeat.

"I'm not disappointed at all," he said. "These are teams we know all about and I'm glad we're not in a seven-nation group."

"We're not going to underestimate Norway and I hope nobody expects us to. It will be an interesting group and the fight for second place, at least, could go to the last match."

England need no reminding

they suffered a shock defeat in Oslo in the 1982 qualifiers and that Poland ended their World Cup hopes in the 1974 competition.

England were also in the same group as the Poles in both the 1990 World Cup and 1992 European Championship

qualifiers. The Europeans will play in six and seven-nation groups for the first time, requiring teams to fulfil an unprecedented heavy programme of 10 to 12 matches each.

## SPANIARDS DISMAYED

Spain were dismayed to be

in the only seven-team group with the two Irish, Denmark, Albania, Latvia and Lithuania.

National coach Vicente Metra said: "The competition will be too long and I can't see how we will be able to fit in all the matches. The Baltic countries can't play at all in the winter which is an even bigger problem."

Latvia and Lithuania, who last played in the 1938 competition when they also met each other, were allowed back in as provisional members of the International Football Federation (FIFA) after recently achieving independence.

The third Baltic state, Estonia, ended up in a tough group one with former world champions Italy, Scotland, Portugal, Switzerland and Malta. Two teams qualify in each European group.

## BEST BALANCED

The best balanced section was the sixth, led by firm favourites France, which includes no obviously weak nations. Austria, Sweden, Bulgaria, Finland and Israel expect to fight for the second place.

Group Five is headed by two great soccer nations in danger of disintegrating politically. The Soviet Union and Yugoslavia must play Hungary, Greece, Iceland and Luxembourg.

## LATIN SCENE

Argentina, losing finalists to West Germany in 1990, could have a tough time reaching the United States in 1994 in a four-nation group including Paraguay and Peru, one of only two countries ever to have beaten them in the qualifiers.

Only one team qualifies directly, though the second will have another chance in an intercontinental playoff.

Brazil and Uruguay, the only two former world champions to play in the same group, should both go through from the other South American section as two qualify from a five-nation tournament with minnows Ecuador, Bolivia and Venezuela.

Brazil, the only team to appear in every World Cup finals, have never lost a qualifying match.

Cameroon, the first African team to reach the World Cup quarter-finals after a great campaign in Italy, play Zaire, Liberia and Swaziland.

They have to win the section to qualify for the second round when nine group winners will fight for three places in the finals.

## Notts Forest beat Arsenal

**LONDON, Dec 9** Nottingham Forest severely dented Arsenal's hopes of retaining their English league title with a thrilling 3-2 home win over the champions on Sunday, reports AFP.

The London Club, who had won on their last four league visits to the City ground, did not complete until they were three goals down and by then it was too late to deny Forest their third successive home victory.

The match started slowly on the frosty surface, but it picked up towards half-time and came to life when left winger Ian Woan blasted home from 20 yards a minute from the interval.

That gave Forest the inspiration to play the delightful one-touch football for which they are so famous and destroy the Gunners' celebrated defensive solidity.

Teddy Sherinham Forest's leading scorer, increased their lead in the 58th minute, launching himself full length to head home his 12th goal of the season after Gary Crosby's shot had been blocked by David Seaman.

The striker then played a crucial role in Forest super their goal, laying off Gary Charles centre to Scot Gemmill, who produced an exquisite chip to beat Seaman in the 70th minute.

At 3-0 down with 20 minutes to play, Arsenal were facing their biggest reverse of the season.

However, man-of-the-match Paul Merson pulled one back with a brilliant chip in the 75th minute and Alan Smith added a second three minutes later, volleying home Nigel Winterburn's centre for his first league goal since October 26.

Forest then held out to further weaken Arsenal's grip on the championship and leave them 13 points adrift of the leaders in sixth place.

## Asians dominate Fukuoka judo

**FUKUOKA, Japan, Dec 9:** Asian competitors dominated the 1991 Fukuoka international women's judo championships with hosts Japan taking away five titles, China two and South Korea one as the two-day event ended here today, reports AFP.

## 1994 WORLD CUP DRAW

**NEW YORK, Dec 9:** Draw for the qualifying rounds of the 1994 World Cup on Sunday:

North and Central America (CONCACAF) (United States qualify automatically as hosts)

One qualifier plus one team into playoff with Oceania winner to qualify for playoff with fourth South American team.

### CARIBBEAN REGION:

FIRST preliminary round (two legs)  
St Lucia v St Vincent  
Dominican Republic v Puerto Rico

SECOND preliminary round (two legs)  
Guyana v Surinam  
St Lucia or St Vincent v Cuba  
Bermuda v Haiti  
Netherlands Antilles v Antigua  
Barbados v Trinidad-Tobago  
Dominican Republic or Puerto Rico v Jamaica.

FIRST ROUND (two legs)  
Guyana or Surinam v St Lucia or St Vincent or Cuba  
Bermuda or Haiti v Netherlands Antilles or Antigua  
Barbados or Trinidad-Tobago v Dominican Republic or Puerto Rico or Jamaica

Winners qualify for second round.

### CENTRAL REGION:

FIRST round (two legs)  
Guatemala v Honduras  
Panama v Costa Rica  
Nicaragua v El Salvador  
Winners qualify for second round

### NORTHERN REGION:

Canada and Mexico qualify directly for second round

### OCEANIA:

One team into playoff with CONCACAF winners to qualify for playoff with fourth South American team.

FIRST round (league system)  
Group A - Australia, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands  
Group B - New Zealand, Tahiti, Fiji, Vanuatu  
Group winners qualify for second round

### ASIA:

Two qualifiers.  
FIRST round (league system)  
Group A - China, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Pakistan.  
Group B - Iran, Syria, Oman, Taiwan, Burma.  
Group C - North Korea, Qatar, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia.  
Group D - South Korea, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Lebanon, India.  
Group E - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Macao.  
Group F - United Arab Emirates, Japan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh.  
Group winners qualify for second round

### EUROPE:

12 qualifiers plus Germany, who qualify automatically as world champions.

Group One - Italy, Estonia, Malta, Switzerland, Portugal, Scotland  
Group Two - England, San Marino, Norway, Poland, Netherlands, Turkey  
Group Three - Spain, Lithuania, Latvia, Albania, Northern Ireland, Denmark, Ireland  
Group Four - Belgium, Faroe Islands, Cyprus, Wales, Romania, Czechoslovakia  
Group Five - Soviet Union, Luxembourg, Iceland, Greece, Hungary, Yugoslavia  
Group six - France, Israel, Finland, Bulgaria, Sweden, Austria  
Top two in each group qualify for finals

### SOUTH AMERICA:

Group A - Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru  
Group B - Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela  
Top two teams in group of five and top team in Group of four qualify for finals. Second team from group of four go into playoff with winner of CONCACAF playoff.

### AFRICA:

Three qualifiers.  
Preliminary round (two legs) - Togo v Sao Tome and Principe  
First round (league system)  
Group A - Algeria, Ghana, Uganda, Burundi  
Group B - Cameroon, Zaire, Liberia, Swaziland  
Group C - Egypt, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Angola  
Group D - Nigeria, Congo, Libya, Togo or Sao Tome and Principe  
Group E - Ivory Coast, Sudan, Niger, Botswana  
Group F - Morocco, Tunisia, Malawi, Ethiopia  
Group G - Senegal, Gabon, Mozambique, Mauritania  
Group H - Zambia, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Tanzania  
Group I - Kenya, Guinea, Mali, Gambia  
Group winners qualify for second round.

# Velappan's sigh of relief

**NEW YORK, Dec 9:** The new-look Asian format for the World Cup qualifiers drew a sigh of relief from the continental supreme Peter Velappan as the colored balls were drawn for the 1994 edition at Madison Square Garden in the heart of Manhattan here Sunday, reports AFP.

Contrary to previous World Cups where the Asian teams were split into two unrelated and distinct sections, one covering the Middle Eastern countries and the other the rest of Asia, Sunday's draw had them in one cohesive section of six groups.

"This is the first time we have had the cross-continent system and I think it firstly makes more sense and secondly will lead to more variety and more exciting matches," Velappan said.

His point was underlined by some of the matchings such as China and Iraq together in Group-A, North Korea and Qatar in Group-C and the United Arab Emirates and Japan in Group-F.

The 29 Asian teams inscribed have been split into five groups of five and one group of four. The six winners will then go forward to a final qualifying group from which the top two will make it to the finals in the United States in 1994.

The six seeded teams were Asia's two qualifiers for Italy in the last World Cup finals 18 months ago - South Korea and United Arab Emirates - plus China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and North Korea.

For political reasons, Iraq was kept apart from Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. As chance would have it, Iraq was the first name pulled out of the bowl by a member of the World Championship winning US women's national soccer team.

In other match-ups, the traditionally tough North Koreans were pitted along with Qatar whose youth and junior sides have been among the best in the World over the past few years, and South Korea, bidding for a third consecutive World Cup finals were given the relatively comfortable task of ousting Hong Kong and Bahrain.

Groups B and E meanwhile look to be a straight fight between Middle East teams, Iran and Syria in the former and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the latter.

Velappan, the Malaysian who runs the Asian Football Confederation, said he was also particularly pleased that two sides who have absent from competition for several years because of political problems - Vietnam and Lebanon - were back in the fold.

"It's good to see these teams coming back, but it may take them some time before they can get back up to the standard of some of the others," he said.

## A BIG BOOST

Just prior to the World Cup draw, the FIFA executive committee gave Asian football a boost by agreeing to a request for Asia to organize a quadrangular tournament grouping the champion national teams of African, South

America, Asia and CONCACAF (North and Central America, plus the Caribbean).

The World Cup finals have never been held in Asia, but there is a strong Japanese presence here lobbying for the first finals of the 21st century, in 2002, to be held in Japan.

## Short top seed for English chess

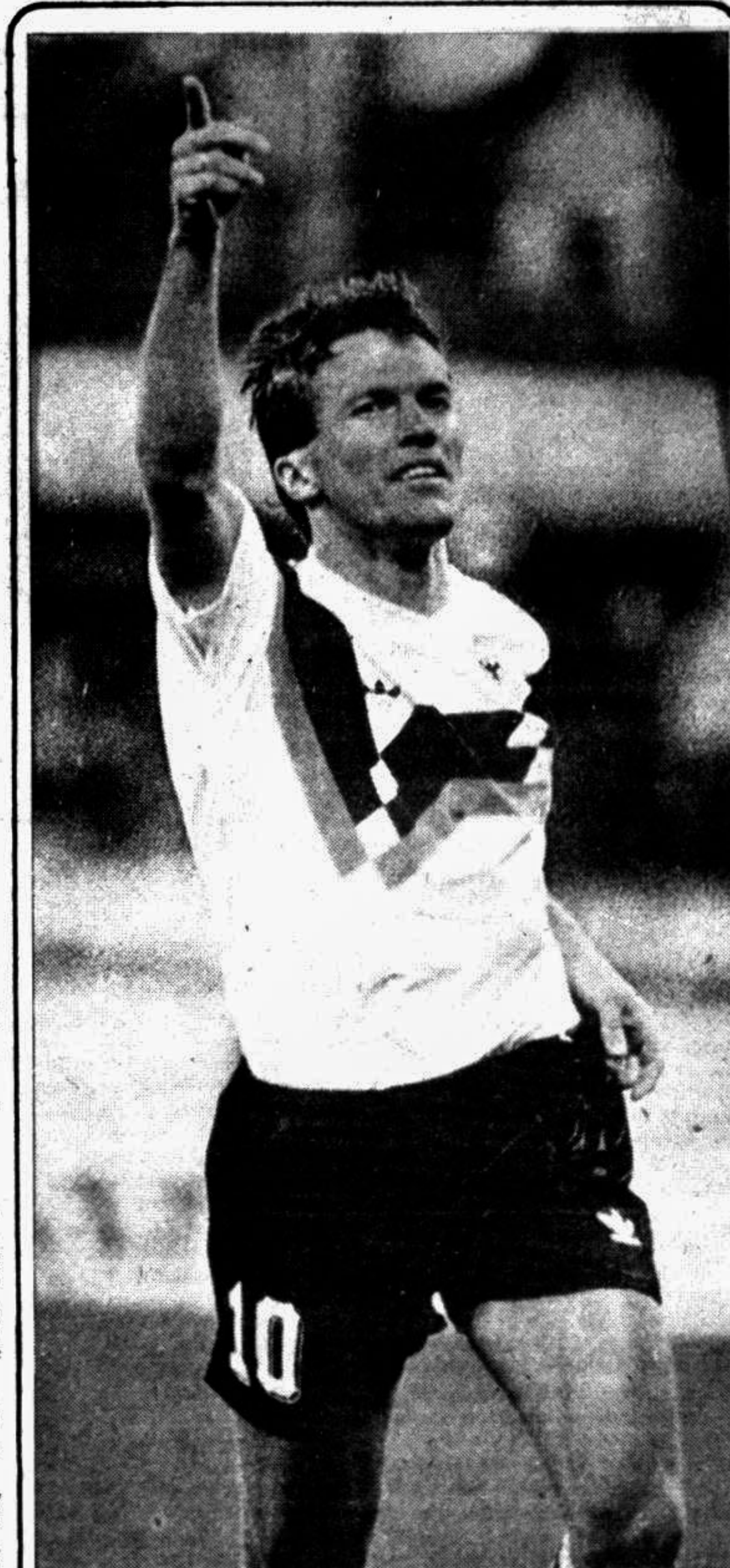
**LONDON, Dec 9:** Players hope the first English chess championship starting in London on Tuesday will help to improve England's international status in the "royal game", reports Reuter.

Pre-eminent in the 19th century, England subsequently slipped as centre of chess. Organisers say having a national title to play for will help the game.

The eight highest-rated national players will compete, with world championship semi-finalist Nigel Short as top seed. Short is now ranked world number three.

He is joined by friend and rival Jonathan Speelman, whom he beat in the current world championship cycle in January.

The four remaining members of the English Olympic squad occupy the third through sixth place seedings. They include Michael Adams, at 20 the world's highest-rated junior and widely tipped as a future world champion, and John Nunn, who was only 15 when he went to Cambridge University to read mathematics and is ranked in the world top twenty.



LOTHAR MATTHAUS ... the runaway poll winner

# Matthaus world player-of-year

**NEW YORK, Dec 9:** Germany's World Cup winning captain Lothar Matthaus topped a poll of international coaches to win the first world player of the year award here on Sunday, reports AFP.

The Inter Milan midfielder won 128 points from the panel of 63 national team bosses to win ahead of French Striker Jean-Pierre Papin on 113 and England's Gary Lineker, a distant third with 40.

Matthaus was a crucial factor in the German success in last year's World Cup finals in Italy and has retained outstanding form for his Italian side.

Papin was a driving influence in France's unbeaten run through the European Championship qualifiers. Lineker, who is going to Japan for the start of the professional league in 1993, is the England First Division's top-scorer.

Papin's Olympique Marseille teammate, Chris Waddle, was the only other Englishman on the list in joint 25th place with three points.

The poll result was announced just before the draw was made for the 1994 World Cup qualifying groups. The finals are to be held in the United States.

Coaches were asked to rate their top three players with five points going to the top player, three to the second and one to the third. Twenty of them named Matthaus first.

England manager Graham Taylor voted for Yugoslavia's Dejan Savicevic in first place, with his second and third votes going to Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov and fourth-placed Yugoslav Robert Prosinecki.

Wales manager Terry Yorath picked them in the right order Matthaus, Papin and Lineker. Malaysia coach Rahim Abdullah was among those who voted Lineker tops, after he scored four goals against them last summer.

Player	Points
Lothar Matthaus (Germany)	128 pts
Jean-Pierre Papin (France)	113
Gary Lineker (England)	40
Robert Prosinecki (Yugoslavia)	38
Marco Van Basten (Neth)	23
Franco Baresi (Italy)	12
Ivan Zamorano (Chile)	10
Andreas Brehme (Germany)	9
Gianluca Vialli (Italy)	8
Enzo Scifo (Belgium)	7

## Americans indifferent as Cup countdown begins

**NEW YORK, Dec 9:** The countdown to the 1994 World Cup has formally begun, reports AP.

With typical American pomp and glitz, a record 141 nations were divided Sunday into qualifying groups at Madison Square Garden during a draw ceremony for the tournament's preliminary round.

Twenty-two nations will emerge from the two-year qualifying tournament and join the United States and Germany in the 52-game World Cup finals, which will be played in the United States from June 17-July 17, 1994. The American team qualifies automatically as the host, while Germany qualifies as defending champion.

The preliminary round begins March 1 and 582 games are scheduled before it ends in November 1993.

FIFA, the International Federation of Association Football, is bringing the

# Dutch duo keeps Milan ahead

**ROME, Dec 9:** AC Milan maintained their one point lead over Juventus in the Italian league with a convincing 2-0 home win over Torino on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Milan's Dutch star Ruud Gullit, a last-minute absentee from the Netherlands team which beat Greece 2-0 in midweek, was once again the man of the match for Milan, heading home the opening goal following a cross from winger Alberto Evans.

Gullit's compatriot Marco Van Basten scored the second goal two minutes into the second half. Torino did not manage a shot on target until the 71st minute.

Satisfied AC Milan coach Fabio Capello said: "We played very well.... And we conceded nothing."

In Turin, second placed Juventus had to struggle harder to record a 2-1 victory against the other Milan side, Internazionale.

A 38th minute penalty for Juventus converted by Roberto Baggio, was followed by a sustained period of second half pressure from Inter.

But Juventus utility player Roberto Galia struck against the run of play with a second goal in the 82nd minute.

That left Inter with the scant consolation of an injury-time penalty from German midfielder Lothar Matthaus, made in New York on Sunday as world player-of-the-year.

Third-placed Napoli kept pace with the two leaders with an impressive 4-0 home defeat of Cagliari.

Two first-half strikes by Brazilian Careca and second-half goals from Giovanni Francini and Michele Padovano

were just reward for Napoli in control throughout. Struggling champions Sampdoria were held 0-0 at Foggia, international striker Gianluca Vialli hitting the bar with a 78th minute penalty at

tempt. At the bottom of the table England's David Platt earned Bari a badly needed point with an 86th minute equaliser in the 2-2 draw at Ascoli.

Bari seemed set for a seventh successive defeat following first-half goals from Ascoli's Paolo Benetti and Marco Maniero.

But a 57th minute reply by Antonio Soda put Bari back into the match, while Platt sealed the draw with a well-taken goal following a corner.

Bari remained bottom of the table one point behind Ascoli. Fiorentina, whose poor start to the season resulted in the replacement of Brazilian coach Sebastiao Lazaroni by Italian "Gigi" Radice, confirmed their recent improvement with a sparkling 4-1 victory over Verona.

Brazilian Dunga, Argentine Gabriel Batistuta and Italians Stefano Carobbi and Claudio Matrone scored for Fiorentina.

# Real march on

**MADRID, Dec 9:** Real Madrid extended their Spanish First Division lead to six points after this weekend's matches, helped by a shock 3-2 defeat of closest rivals Atletico Madrid by Athletic Bilbao on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Real, who now have 25 points from a possible 26 this season, reinforced their position with a thumping 4-1 home win over Real Sociedad of San Sebastian on Saturday night.

Atletico had to win in Bilbao to stay in touch. But after going ahead with an early penalty they gave an equalising penalty to Bilbao and were then stunned by goals from Javier Eskurza in the 35th and Patxi Salinas in the 42nd minute.

A frenetic second half saw Atletico saved by the bar and Bilbao by a post but there was not further scoring until Atletico striker Manolo Sanchez made it 3-2 with another penalty three minutes into injury time.

The young Bilbao side have been near the bottom of the table through the season but have gradually improved and had on their side a history of 15 years without losing at home to Atletico.

It was the first time this season that Atletico have conceded more than two goals and the first time Bilbao have scored more than two.

Real Madrid showed attacking flair in all positions against Real Sociedad and three of their four goals came from defenders or midfielders. They were 10 minutes away from a 4-0 clean sweep when the Basques replied from a 25-metre free kick.

Visiting coach John Toshack, fired by Real Madrid last year, was blunt about the gulf between the teams. "We looked ridiculous. The goal margin could have been much greater."

Madrid's almost perfect record is underscored by their impressive defensive performance. They have conceded only seven goals in their 13 games, four of them from penalties and two from direct free kicks.

Only Sevilla striker Ignacio Conte has scored against them in open play. Champions Barcelona continued their revival from a dismal series of early season results with a dramatic 5-3 home win over Tenerife on Saturday, which moved them up from fifth to third place, eight points behind the leaders.

## Pele meets the other Pele

**NEW YORK, Dec 9:** The World Cup's most enduring hero, met his Ghanaian namesake Abedi Pele for the first time on Sunday at the qualifying draw for the 1994 finals, reports Reuter.

Pele, who helped Brazil to a record three World Cup triumphs embraced the African player on the Madison Square Garden stage only hours after arriving on a Concorde.

Abedi had played in his French club Marseille's 0-0 draw at Metz on Saturday night before making a trans-Atlantic dash to meet his idol.

"He's not my son" quipped Pele senior as he joined him. Abedi took the name Pele when it was bestowed upon him by a Presidential decree in his native Ghana.

## SOCCER SCENARIO

### London bookie backs Germans

**LONDON, Dec 9:** Holders Germany were on Sunday made 11-2 favourites to win the 1994 World Cup following the qualifying draw in New York, reports Reuter.

A London bookmaker rated Argentina and Brazil as 8-1 joint second favourites, with Italy 9-1, and England, France and the Netherlands at 14-1.

The Faroe Islands were quoted at 10,000-1 while rank outsiders were Sao Tome and Principe, tiny islands off the west coast of Africa, at 20,000-1.

### PSV hang on to top spot

**AMSTERDAM, Dec 9:** PSV Eindhoven hung on to top spot in the Dutch league despite a lacklustre 1-1 draw against FC Utrecht on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Feyenoord Rotterdam remained on PSV's heels confidently beating FC Twente 2-1 to remain level on points.

PSV again missed the Brazilian striker Romario for the second time this season. He has returned to Rio De Janeiro for treatment to an injured ankle.

PSV went a goal to Jan Oosterhuis in the 15th minute.

Juul Ellerman equalised a few minutes later but the Eindhoven side failed to summon any further inspiration.

Third-placed Ajax Amsterdam had a miserable time, losing 2-0 at home to Vitesse Arnhem, who moved fourth.