Voeller's vision

GLASGOW, Nov 27: Rudi

Voeller does not relish the

prospect of another match

against Glasgow Rangers for

his Olympique Marseille side

it will be much more difficult

for Marseille," he insisted on

in Marseille the pressure is on

the team to succeed," said

Voeller, who scored 43 goals

in 84 appearances from Ger-

many. "That sort of atmo-

sphere makes it difficult to

day night he said: "Before the

start we would have been

happy with a draw but we

believe we have lost point, not

three goals, then give away two

or three. It is a big problem for

headed the equaliser eight

minutes from time, declared:

There is an amazing amount

of character and self-belief in

this team. Even at 2-0 down

we believed we could still get

into a good one. We played well

within our capabilities but

stuck at the task and we would

probably have won the game in

Drive to stamp out

racism in stadium

in Italy

cer authorities said on

Thursday they were planing to

launch a publicity drive to

stamp out a worrying increase

in racist abuse in their stadi-

confronted by the tragedy of

racism. We have to sound the

alarm bells as some fringes

want to use the stadiums in

the worst possible manner,'

Italian soccer federation pres-

ident Antonio Matarrese told

Matarrese chaired a meet-

ing of the Italian soccer au-

"We must not hide when

ums, reports Reuter.

ROME, Nov 27: Italian soc-

another five or 10 minutes".

"We turned a difficult night

something from the game."

"We seem to make two or

Rangers' Mark Hateley, who

Of the 2-2 draw on Wednes-

"When we meet them again

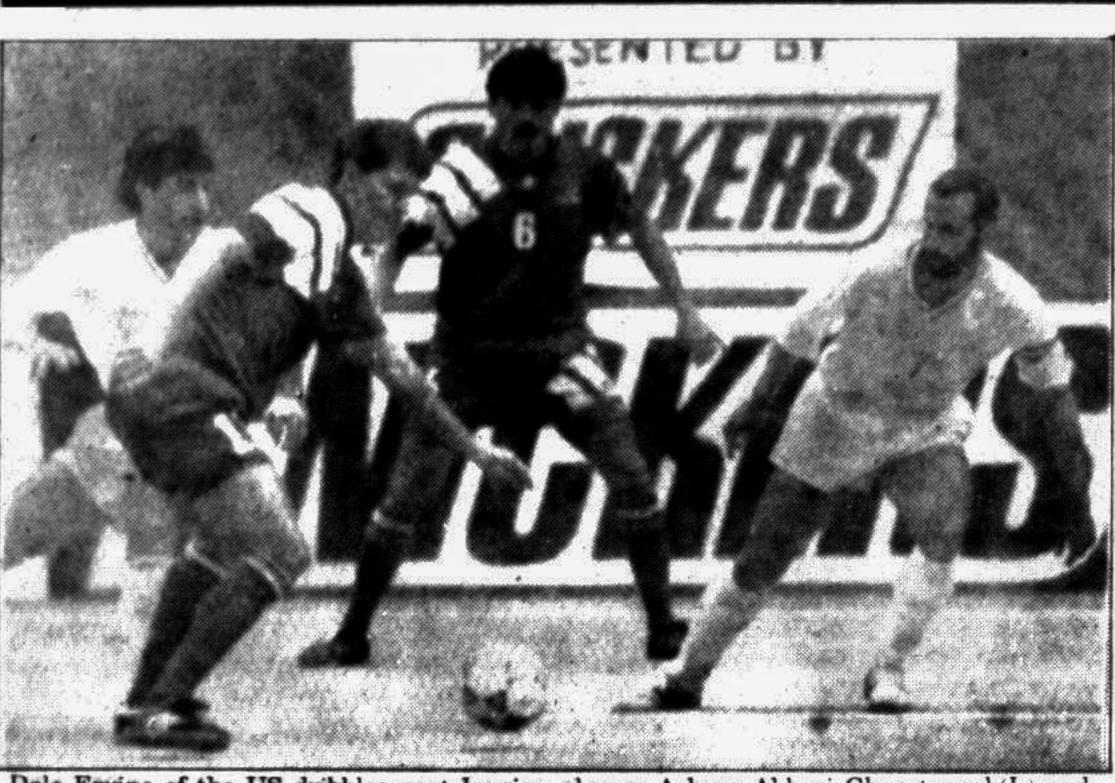
"It will be tougher because

next April, reports AFP.

Thursday.

play normally."

gained one.



Dale Ervine of the US dribbles past Iranian players Ashgar Akbari Gharetappeh(L) and Sadegh Vermazyar(R) while his teammate Hernan Borja looks on in the semifinal match of the indoor five-a-side world football championship in Hong Kong on November 27. The USA beat Iran 4-2. - AFP photo

## Premier League at a crucial stage



LONDON, Nov 27: of all European club interest, reaches a vital stage

this weekend which could uncover the eventual champions of the new Premier League, reports Reuter.

Four of the top five teams play each other, with secondplaced Arsenal also facing a tough test against an improving Manchester United, curmently eighth.

For those two famous clubs, plus leaders Norwich, bigspending Blackburn, Aston Villa and QPR, it represents a chance to show English soccer is still a quality product.

With only Glasgow Rangers left to fly the British flag in the European Cup and many fans increasingly keen on televised Italian soccer, it is lucky that several of the leading contenders have suddenly started to raise their game.

Norwich, surprise leaders for much of the season, are

Games in Beijing, has made

sport a key component of

official propaganda and

economic development efforts,

government which has given

extensive publicity to the

country's impressive medal

harvest at last summer's

Barcelona Games, has not hesi-

tated to use training method

rarely seen outside the former

Soviet Union and its erstwhile

employed coaches from these

countries are being avidly

sought, especially in swimming

and athletics. About a dozen of

them, mostly Russians and

Czechoslovaks, are already es-

tablished in China to train the

They certainly will not be-

come millionaires here, but at

least they can live quietly and

comfortably while awaiting the

return of better times at home.

They get an apartment, a

would be local champions.

Perhaps appropriately, un-

east European satellites.

As part of that effort, the

9

reports AFP.

BEIJING, Nov 27:

China, which is

running an inten-

sive campaign to

host the 2000

Summer Olympic

four points clear of Arsenal, but must now meet an Aston cer season, shorn Villa side unbeaten in their last 13 matches this season.

Villa will be without their influential defender Shaun Teale, who has a knee injury which may require surgery.

Arsenal, reportedly planning a bid for Danish international midfielder Henrik Larsen, hope to bounce back from their 3-0 loss at Leeds last week which dented their growing title claims.

In the circumstances, they could have done without a visit from United, who won 6-2 in an extraordinary League Cup game at Highbury exactly two years ago.

United manager Alex Ferguson is tipping winger Lee Sharpe, who scored a hat-trick that night, to emerge from his injury nightmare and revive his club's season, affected by a recent goal drought.

Ferguson said: "Sharpe is a worker and a provider who can give us the crosses we've badly needed for the strikers.

car and a comfortable salary

much superior to those paid to

their Chinese colleagues.

European communist nations'

golden days of sport are also

seen here: gifted young chil-

dren are separated from their

families to undergo years of

rigorous training and indoctri-

nation, while enjoying signifi-

Games alleged that some of

China's medal winning female

swimmers had taken drugs or

steroids to held build up their

quick to dismiss the allega-

tions as "international jeal-

state sports commission re-

fused to interviewed on this

subject - on any other aspect

surrounding training methods,

the bid to host the 2000

Games in the subject of in-

tense officials propaganda with the whole nation mobilised to

work for the "glorious Olympic

Beijing is competing against

In contrast to the secrecy

of professional sport in China.

The Chinese press was

Officials from the powerful

Experts at the Barcelona

cant material advantages.

muscles.

All the methods used in the

diplomatic sources say.

"It is great to have him back and, alongside Bryan Robson, I believe you can already see the difference he makes to our at

Arsenal manager George Graham hopes goalkeeper David Seaman and midfielder David Hillier will both return from injury and illness after being substituted against Leeds. Striker Alan Smith is out for up to a month with an ankle stress-fracture.

tacking form."

Third-placed Blackburn could do with a home win, but meet a QPR side playing some splendid football which not always gets its reward.

They lost 1-0 to a late Liverpool winner on Monday, undermined by the return of England's fit-again winger John Barnes. He will start against Crystal Palace on Saturday, the first Premier League match he has begun since an Achilles tendon tear forced him out of the European Championship in

Istanbul

thorities, who decided on a publicity offensive involving television commercials and ad-China take a new approach to sports vertising posters in an attempt to halt the growth in rightwing extremism among soccer Berlin, Milan, Manchester, Brasilia, Sydney, Tashkent and

Italy has been alarmed by a growth in racist attacks in re-The Chinese capital, which cent months which police beis covered in billboards praislieve are predominantly the ing the Olympic bid, launched work of young skinheads. a major building programme dubbed "Naziksins," and several months ago in anticithought to number only around pation of September's decision 1,000 nationwide.

by the International Olympic Their activities have spilled Committee. into the stadiums with Nazi The main projects involve salutes and racist chanting building a 100,000 seat stafrom shaven-headed youths dium and modernising the famarring the atmosphere at cilities constructed for the many grounds up and down 1990 Asian Games, as well as the country.

upgrading the capital's infras-"Soccer plays a very impor tructure and telecommunica tant social role in Italy and of ten reflects, the spread of new The Chinese government ideologies," Matarrese added. hopes the Games will help

He said security checks would be increased to prevent fans taking racist material into stadiums and the soccer federation would seek to extend contact with young fans.

AC Milan's Dutch striker Ruud Gullit, who has a Surinamese father and Dutch mother, was the victim of taunting from International fans during last Sunday's Milanese derby, and suggested teams should refuse to play if their players were being verbally abused.

"For me these chants show a lack of intelligence, these people are insulting themselves," Gullit said this week.

"I think many First Division players want to do something concrete," added the dead locked Gullit.. "Of course it's impossible to suspend a game in Italy for that reason. But wonder whether the dignity of an individual or the pools coupon is more important," he added.

## Racist violence may ruin Berlin's Olympic bid

BERLIN, Nov 27 : Berlin said on Wednesday that racist violence by German neo-Nazis was ruining the city's chances of hosting the Olympic Games in the year 2000, reports

can scrap our Olympic bid unless we get to grips with right-wing extremism," said Axel Nawrocki, chief executive of the Berlin-owned Olympia GmbH, organisers of the initia-

Germany has been plagued by months of racist violence which culminated earlier this week in the murder of three Turks.

Nawrocki told German television that Berlin's chances of being nominated to host the Games at a September 1993 meeting of the International Olympic Committee would depend on whether the World

still like Germans. "It's a question of sympathy. charm and friendliness, Nawrocki said according to a

text of the television interview. Berlin last hosted the Olympic Games in 1936 which Adolf Hitler misused to show - Star photo off his so-called master race.

# Van Basten Juventus' biggest threat



Four goals from physical condition." Marco van Basten Trappattoni may well field in AC Milan's Euthe side which defeated ropean Cup win

over IFK Gothenburg this week will strike fear into the hearts of Juventus fans before the top-of-the table clash on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The Italian champions, who lead Juventus by two points with a game in hand, were at their awesome best against Gothenburg with Van Basten turning in a performance which had the normally reserved Milan coach Fabio Capello enthusing: "He's the best player in the world, there's simply no argument about ft."

Van Basten, the sole scorer against Gothenburg, said Milan was reaching the level of past great sides such as Bayern Munich, Liverpool and Ajax Amsterdam.

"If we keep on winning for a few year...Then we can say that we are one of the best teams of all time."

Coach Capello has only problems of abundance when it comes to naming his side for Sunday's game with Juventus.

With Van Basten and compatriot Frank Rijkaard certain to start, it could be that the only significant change with be the return of the third Dutchman Ruud Gullit in place of Jean- Pierre Papin.

Juventus proved themselves ready for the big game with a sparking 2-1 away UEFA Cup win over Sigma Olomouc, and coach Giovanni Trappattoni "We're going into Sunday's game with Milan in the best possible mental and



MARCO VAN BASTEN

Torino last Sunday, although he hopes that Englishman David Platt, scheduled to have a knee operation next week, may be able to play this last important match before

FRENCH FRAY Marseille will be trying to open a three-goal lead when they play Caen in the French League after twice blowing two-goal advantages in the past

Their 2-2 draw in Glasgow with Rangers in the European Cup on Wednesday followed a 2-2 draw in Strasbourg at the weekend, both after opening a 2-0 lead.

But the French champions took comfort from their spir-

ited performance in the Scottish rain, their best of the

German striker Rudi Voeller, back from injury, and Alen Bokic of Croatia both scored and look like becoming the most feared duo in the

league. But Marseille will have to watch out for Caen striker Xavier Gravelaine, who has scored 10 goals in the last nine matches and earned promotion to the national team.

League leaders Nantes receive Strasbourg while Paris St Germain, who trail them on goal difference only, have to negotiate a tricky visit to Monaco.

#### BUNDESLIGA

German league leaders Bayern Munich, who hold a three-point lead with three games remaining before the Bundesliga's winter break, host Karlsruhe, one of the big surprises of the season. Karlsruhe have not finished

higher than eighth since they were promoted to the First Division in 1987. But inspired by flamboyant coach Winfried Schaefer, the club are challenging in fourth, four points behind Bayern.

Schaefer's reputation for motivating players has attracted recent attention from Spanish side Atletico Madrid who are reported to be interested in signing him.

Second-placed Eintracht Frankfurt take on Bayer Uerdingen on Saturday while Werder Bremen have a chance to narrow the gap on the leaders when they meet Saarbruecken at home in an

evening match today. Three of the four teams jostling for position at the top of the Spanish First Division expect easy wins at home this weekend. Atletico Madrid is the only one to face a serious challenge with an away game

against Diego Maradona's fifthplaced Sevilla on Saturday. Atletico is third in the league, with 16 points to leading club Barcelona's 17, and only one point ahead of Sevilla.

Police security will be tight for Barcelona's home match on Sunday against 10th-placed Espanol. Fans are likely to be boisterous in a game between the city's two big teams, although Espanol as not beaten Barcelona at home for 10 sea-

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff's line up will be missing its Bulgarian striker, this season's top league scorer Hristo. Stoichkov, who is playing for his country in next Wednesday's 1994 World Cup qualifying match against Israel in Tel Aviv.

Second-placed Real Madrid, also only a point behind their arch-rivals Barcelona, expect a straight-forward game at home to Real Oviedo on Sunday Oviedo last beat Real in the Madrid team's home territory more than 40 years ago.

Deportivo Coruna, league leaders until last weekend, stay at home to Valencia on Sunday. Deportivo are still unbeaten at home this season and Valencia has managed only two goals in its five away matches

### Cantona signs for M United lishing a reputation as a hot-to-



LONDON, Nov 27: French international striker Eric Cantona joined Manchester

United from English league champions Leeds on Thursday for 1.2 million pounds sterling (1.82 million

dollars), reports Reuter, Manager Alex Ferguson swooped in a bid to solve his

scoring problems after failing

#### Argentina's unbeaten run continues

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 27: Argentina continued their twoyear winning streak on Thursday with a 2-0 (half time 1-0) win over a lacklustre Polish side in a friendly match in Buenos Aires, reports Reuter.

Unbeaten since the 1990 World Cup final against Germani, Argentina struggle to find their form as the visitors dominated the midfield in the opening 20 minutes.

But a 22nd minute goal by Nestor Cravietto, who scrambled the ball across the line after Polish goalkeeper Aleksandre Kzak failed to hold a searing free kick from Ramon Median Bello, helped the locals to find their rhythm.

Slipping into their classic style of short, pinpoint passes the 1986 world champions dominated the rest of the game, at times leaving the poles looking desperately at the trainer's bench for inspi-Argentina put its seal on

the match in the eighth minute of the second half when Medina Bello picked up a tapped free kick outside the penalty box to ram the ball round the Polish barrier and beyond Kzak's reach into the

34 Kyoto

bund

Whom

Uncle

Sam

God-

wanted

destiny

37 Partner of

40 Chess

41 Sheer

piece

hosien

container

45 Copycat

letter:

abbr.

50 Songbird

47 Soda

49 First

desses of

22 Across

cummer-

**ACROSS** 

1 Broadway

5 Kipling lad

12 Mongolian 36

bomb

8 "One-

hoss'

vehicle

monk

second

right track

follower

17 Pound of

poetry

18 Place of

great

luxury

20 Between

jobs

22 Shaker

job?

29 Bunches

30 Sgt., e.g.

31 Motorist's

32 Emulate

Niobe

33 Tempo-

rarily

speech-

payment

lighting

of mins.

**26** Bad

13 Jackie's

mate

14 On the

15 State

16 Wham

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

51 Insepa-

52 Sicilian

rable

53 "- Long

54 Tavern

55 Bellow

1 Linseed

outflow

4 Scarlett's

shade

istan's

capital

6 George's

7 45 Across'

brother

CHA

CRAFIT

A E R I E H A R R OW 38 Anorak G R E A T V I C T O R I A 39 Central

ANT SACKS ESS 42 Aware of

POLO ARES 43 Vessel of

Solution time: 23 mins.

COOPSOFA

EMS

A R P S H E L F H U E P A I N T E D D E S E R T

SCORIA RIDGE SPURN EDGE

3 Portent

oil source

2 52 Across' 24 Wile E.

DOWN

spouter

Way to

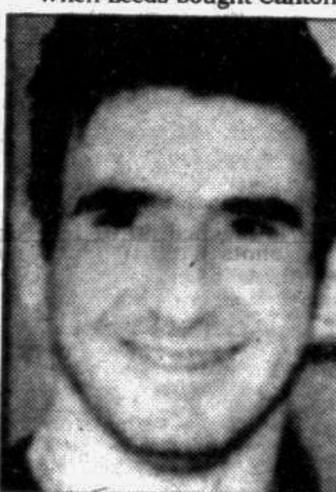
Tipperary\*

to lure England's David Hirst from Sheffield Wednesday for 3.5 million pounds (5.3 million dollars).

Ferguson said: Because of Wednesday's refusal to let us sign David Hirst, we looked around at strikers we rated and who might be available."

"I tried Leeds and was delighted when they agreed to release Cantona."

When Leeds bought Cantona



ERIC CANTONA

from French club Nimes earlier this year the figure was 900,000 pounds (1.35 million dollars

Ferguson was desperate to beef up his attack which went four games without scoring before United beat Oldham 3-0 last Saturday. That result ended a run of eight Premier League games without a win.

Ironically, Cantona helped Leeds prise the league title from Manchester United's grasp at the end of last season.

The 26-year-old Cantona built a big following at Leeds. He has scored 11 goals in 19 matches this season.

Cantona, who could make his debut for United against Arsenal on Saturday, joined Leeds in February after estab-

specialty

8 Bulge

9 Filbert

abbr.

11 Singer

10 Timetable

Sumac

19 Marino of

football

21 — Moines

Coyote

27 Post-bout

garb

32 Pipe type

waster

variety

28 Mules

33 Time

35 Ever-

36 Aviate

1492

44 Asterisk

today

46 Vanna's

cohort

collection

**48** Literary

45 Clay,

25 Pillers

26 On

guitar idly

shops here

23 Play

handle character with Auxerre, Bordeaux, Montpellier, Marseille and Nimes. He rejected French soccer

following a sending-off and a two-month suspension after insulting a disciplinary panel. Cantona originally went to

Sheffield Wednesday but, as an established international, was unhappy about being put on trial there. His contributions, to Leeds'

title chase were often launched from the substitutes' bench and although he took time to adjust to the pace of the English game he soon revealed a flair for the spectacu-

#### Chancellor at Austrian soccer coach's funeral

VIENNA, Nov 27: Austrian Chancellor Franz Vrranitzky was among thousands of mourners at Thursday's funeral of Ernst Happel, one of Europe's most successful soccer coaches who died of cancer earlier this month, reports Reuter.

Former West German captain Franz Beckenbauer and the management of Hamburg SV, the team Happel took to the West German championship and the European Cup in 1983 were among the guests.

The Dutch Football Federation also sent a delegation. Happel, capped 51 times by Austria, led teams to a total of 17 titles, both domestic and international, and coached the Dutch to the World Cup final in

1978 when they were beaten

by Argentina. Happel was already seriously ill when he took over Austria's 1994 World Cup preparations last year.

SA's Olympic bid JOHANNESBURG, Nov 27

Africa's top Olympic official said on Wednesday his organisation would back South Africa's bid to host the 2004 Games, reports Reuter.

ANOCA to support

Jean-Claude Ganga, Congolese president of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA), said after a two-day meeting of the group in Johannesburg that members world back a bid "to bring the Olympics where they ought to

"We shall fully support a bid by South Africa. But we also hope that no other African state expresses a wish to host the same Games," Ganga said.

The National Olympic Committee of South Africa's (NOCSA) president Sam Ramsary, who led the republic's return to the Olympic fold after two decades last year, said all African countries had a moral duty to back South Africa's bid "since it is one great way of showing our unity and brotherhood."

"When a South African city is nominated to stage the Games, Africa has a moral and legal obligation to support it if no other African cities are nominated as well," Ramsamy

The modern Olympics have never been held in Africa in their 96-year-history.

NOCSA was expected to pick the city which would bid to stage the Games after presentations from the coastal resorts of Durban and Cape Town and the industrial capital Johannesburg.

Johannesburg has named a management committee to try to bring the Games to the city. known for its gold mines."

"We shall call them the golden Olympics," said Johannesburg sports director Danie Malan.

GMEKLVF RTELAFTH

YKT GMIOWYN WTIYOHTR

KTSWLFTE MY WTFAYK. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DISLIKE HEARING FROM MY FRIEND THE GROUCH SINCE IT'S USU-ALLY A CRANK CALL.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals L

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.

#### Athletes press IAAF for money STOCKHOLM



Nov 27 : Athletes

may boycott next year's World Championships in Stuttgart unless a

conflict with the sport's ruling resolved, a top American coach

body over prize money is warned on Wednesday, reports Reuter. Athletes agents have been

pressing the International

Amateur Athletic Federation

(IAAF) to share some of its in-

come from the biennial World

Championships through prize

money for competitors.

But IAAF president Primo Nebiolo on Wednesday dismissed the radical proposal, insisting the IAAF did not have unlimited reserves to pay out

"People are believing things that are not realistic," he said at the annual IAAF gala as athletes gathered to honour the year's top performers. "If he (an athlete) does not

like our rules, he plays tennis

or rides a bike. They know our

rules and must abide by them," But John Smith, coach to

US Olympie champions Qui-

ncy Watts and Kevin Young who are also backing moves for change, warned: "A boycott of

boost the country's economic

development and is using its

ultra-nationalistic campaign to

encourage the population to

get involved in building a

is fond of citing the example of

former gymnast Li Ning-who

won four gold medals at the

1984 Los Angeles Olympic and

subsequently set up her own

line in sportswear and a China

of sports shops -as evidence

of the close link between

sporting an economic success.

The state-controlled press

"socialist market economy."

Stuttgart is still an option." Smith, who believes prize money will have to be introduced sooner rather than later to "rid the sport of the ridiculous notion that it is still amateur", said he hoped the situation could be resolved by

diplomatic channels. The International Associa tion of Athletes' representatives, which is not recognised by the IAAF, has been pressing for a meeting to discuss prize money.



the fourth Asian junior championships to be held in the Indian capital from November 30 to December 4.