

Milanese rivalry at its peak

MILAN, Italy, May 7: It's AC Milan versus Inter, although on soccer fields 300 miles (500 kilometers) apart, reports AP.

The league leaders, their overall lead reduced to four points, seek their first victory in eight rounds along the Adriatic coast at Ancona. They're trying to fight off the sensational comeback of the runners-up, who take on Lazio at Milan's San Siro Stadium.

Uruguayan forward Ruben Sosa, a key player in Inter's unbeaten streak of 16 games, said he and his teammates were increasingly confident of catching up AC Milan, who at one moment led the cross-town rivals by 11 points and appeared out of reach.

"Our morale is growing as our gap is narrowing match after match. We must win all five matches left, to take advantage of their possible false steps," Sosa said. "Yes, we think that the title is not Milan's pocket already."

The Uruguayan forward scored a season record of 16 goals so far and would love to add one in Sunday's match against his former teammates of Lazio of Rome.

"Lazio are a powerful team, but we are in top form and will have the crowd on our side," said Sosa.

Inter, unbeaten at home, will be shooting for their 16th season victory in the 30th round of the Italian First Division campaign.

Lazio tied with Juventus of Turin and Parma in third place overall, enter the match with a record of 11-12-6.

Giuseppe Signori, the leading league scorer with 23 goals, will lead offense of Lazio, who are missing two key midfielders German Thomas Doll who's nursing a serious knee injury and English virtuoso

Paul Gacoigne, who fractured his jaw in a recent World Cup qualifying match with his national team.

German forward Karl-Heinz Riedle, who injured his right knee during Lazio's recent tour in Japan, is a questionable starter.

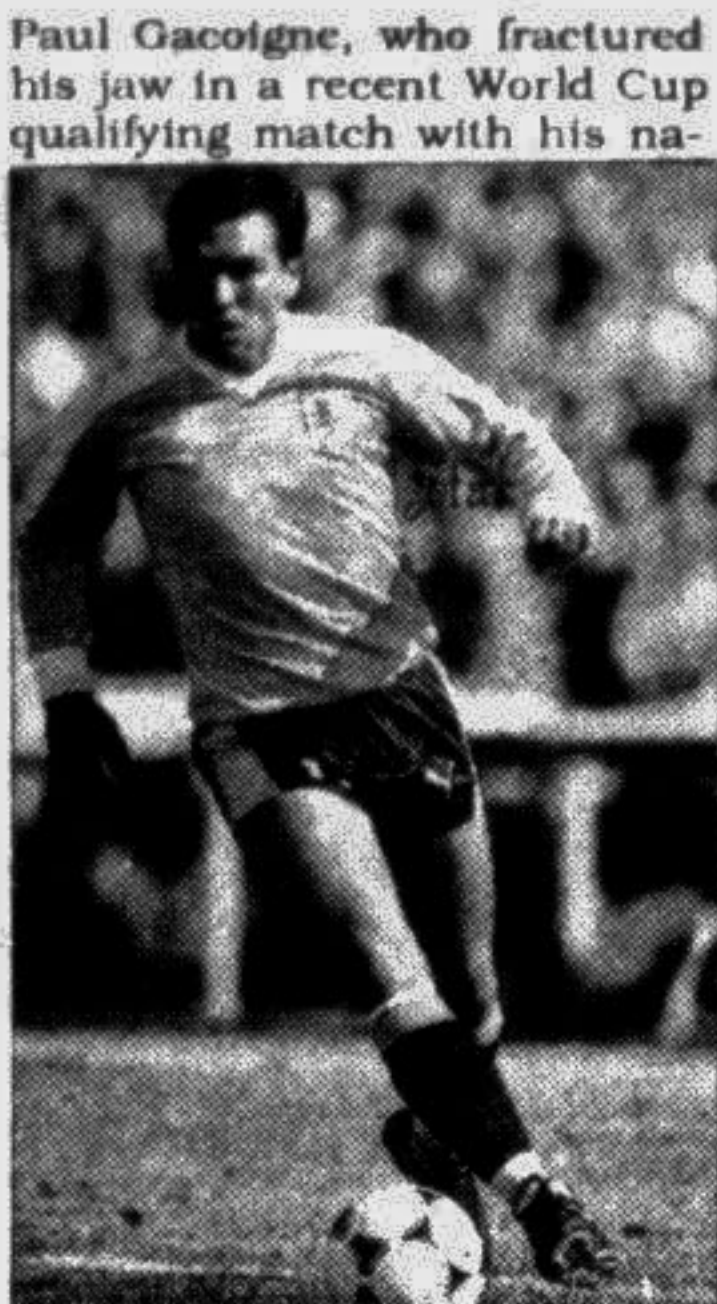
At Ancona, AC Milan will start for the first time in five months the Dutch trio of Marco Van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard, who were a key to recent and past fortunes of the Milan powerhouse.

Van Basten, recovered from an ankle surgery, will be on Milan's starting lineup for the first time since mid December, after playing a portion of game at Udine in the previous round.

Milan, who dominated the first part of the season, had two losses and five draws in the last seven league matches.

Gullit explained that injuries and an overly busy schedule took Milan close to collapse in recent weeks.

In addition to league games, Milan have been playing in the Champions and Italian Cup.



RUBEN SOSA

Paul Gacoigne, who fractured his jaw in a recent World Cup qualifying match with his national team.

They've reached the May 26 finals of the European competition against Olympique Marseille while succumbing to Roma in the Italian Cup semi-finals.

Inter have become a serious threat but we can definitely end their hopes by winning in Ancona", said Milan's young international midfielder Demetrio Albertini.

Ancona are an underdog, second to last overall with a record of 5-7-17 and fields the weakest league defence with 58 goals allowed.

In other matches kicking off at 1600 (1400 GMT) Sunday: Juventus take on Foggia at Turin; Napoli host Genoa at San Paolo Stadium; Roma play Torino at the Olympic Stadium; Atalanta of Bergamo are at Brescia and last-place Pescara at the Marassi Stadium, against Sampdoria; Cagliari are at Udine.

The Fiorentina-Parma match will be played in Florence Saturday night to give Parma players one extra day of rest prior to the European Cup Winners Cup final against Belgium's Antwerp. The final is scheduled at Wembley Wednesday night.

Roberto Baggio, the imaginative forward who scored two goals in Juventus' 3-1 triumph on the road against Borussia Dortmund in a first-leg final of the UEFA Cup Wednesday night, will be the man to watch for Foggia defenders.

Baggio is in impressive form and scored decisive goals for La Juve in recent league and Cup matches.

Udinese will be without suspended Argentine midfielder Nestor Sensini for the crucial match with Cagliari. Udinese are struggling in the relegation zone.

Cagliari will be paced by the Latin American trio of Enzo Francescoli, Luis Herrera and Luis Oliveira.

A new dream for Keegan's boys

LONDON, May 7: Newcastle will celebrate their Division One championship this weekend, but manager Kevin Keegan already has a new goal in mind for his club — a Premier League title within two years, reports AP.

"Tell Alex Ferguson we are on our way," said Keegan, referring to the Manchester United manager who captured English soccer's top prize last weekend. "This team belongs in the Premier League."

"We have got to look at what Leeds did and aim to repeat that," Keegan said after his team clinched its title with a victory Tuesday night at Oldham. "We aren't going up just to consolidate. You have always got to give yourself goals."

Leeds won the championship of the First Division — now called the Premier League — last year in only their second season after promotion.

Keegan plans to do the same with Newcastle.

"If we aim for the top we might just finish third or fourth next season," the manager said.

Benign Saudi gesture

RIYADH, May 7: Saudi Arabia has invited Sarajevo's football team to play a series of charity matches in the Gulf state to raise money for Muslim children in Bosnia, reports AP.

The team from the besieged city are expected here on May 13, the Saudi press reported today, at the invitation of Emir Faisal bin Fahd, head of the Saudi Football Association and the eldest son of King Fahd.

The visitors will play against three Saudi clubs — Al-Itihad, Al-Hilal and Al-Itifaq — during their 20-day tour.

Proceeds from his matches will go to help Muslim children in Bosnia, victims of Serb aggression," the press said.



KEVIN KEEGAN

the Hammers holding the razor-thin advantage of having scored one more goal on the season.

While one qualifies directly for the Premier League, the other will enter a play off with Tranmere, Swindon and Leicester to determine the third promotion slot. West Ham are at home to Cambridge United on Saturday, while Portsmouth host Grimsby.

With Manchester United's title well in hand, the drama in the Premier League Saturday will focus on the teams Newcastle and Co will replace.

Oldham need a win at home against Southampton and some help from elsewhere if they are to avoid joining Nottingham Forest and Middlesbrough in Division One next season.

An Oldham victory and a Crystal Palace loss at Arsenal would send Palace down. Sheffield United and Ipswich could



World number three Stefan Edberg of Sweden makes a powerful return to Uruguayan Marcelo Filippini during their second round match of the German Open in Hamburg on May 5. Edberg won 6-3, 6-3 to advance to the third round where he was eventually beaten by Spaniard Emilio Sanchez.

Jansher annoyed

ISLAMABAD, May 7: World squash champion Jansher Khan is disturbed ahead of the Brazil Open, complaining that the state-run airline has refused free tickets for his coach and physical trainer, a report said Thursday, reports AFP.

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) are refusing additional tickets for Brazil for coach Mohibullah Khan and trainer Mehboob Khan, the official Associated Press of Pakistan quoted him as saying.

The PIA said, "It is too expensive for them to afford the tickets, amounting to about 5,000 dollars", said Jansher, who was scheduled to leave for the South American nation today.

The two men have played a great role in my winning streak over the last few years. I am so used to their company that their absence can affect my game to a great deal", the champion said.

Jansher said the state run airline had given him and his two aides free tickets for all matches abroad during the past two years.

Odds are against Mexico

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, May 7: Mexico will be missing several advantages Sunday when they meet Canada in Toronto in a game that will offer the first qualifying berth in the 1994 World Cup field, reports AP.

There will be no searing heat or high altitude of Mexico City for the Canadians to contend with. There won't be 120,000 screaming fans cheering the Mexicans, who won 4-0 April 25 at Azteca Stadium.

And the Mexicans will be without star midfielder Alberto Garcia Aspe and forward Luis Garcia, the top goal-scorer for Atletico Madrid.

Both players will be suspended for the Toronto game, the finale of CONCACAF qualifying, after receiving their second yellow cards during Sunday's 4-1 win over Honduras in Tegucigalpa.

Coach Miguel Mejia Baron received a red card and was ejected in that game for coming on the field to argue with the referee, and he, too, won't be allowed on the Mexican bench Sunday.

Both Garcia and Aspe scored in the victories over Canada and Honduras and are two of Mexico's biggest offensive threats.

"It's come down to one game and it's something the Mexicans really don't want to have happen," said Canadian coach Bob Lenarduzzi, who is expecting a sellout crowd of 19,000 at Varsity Stadium.

"It'll be the biggest Canadian crowd for the national soccer team for a long, long time."

While the winner advances to the World Cup in the United States, the loser must take a backdoor route against the Oceania group winner and a runner-up from South America.

Canada trail the Mexicans (4-1-0) by one point with three wins and a tie in five games in the final qualifying round for the North, Central American and Caribbean (CONCACAF) zone. Mexico could advance with a tie.

"I know a lot of the boys are looking forward to giving back a little of what we got down there," said central defender Randy Samuel, referring to the 4-0 loss in Mexico City.

Captain Colin Miller agreed. "We took a drubbing down in Mexico City."

For them the race isn't over yet

PARIS, May 7: While Manchester United can rest easy as the newly crowned champions of England, the race is not over for Europe's other major leagues, reports AP.

Several hard-fought encounters remain as the continent's big clubs decide who wins the league — and who will play in the next season's European Champions Cup.

Aside from pride and glory, teams will be fighting for the big bucks on offer in Europe's most lucrative tournament. The choice confrontation in the German Bundesliga will be between Werder Bremen and Borussia Dortmund this Sunday. Second place Bremen and third place Dortmund will be struggling to displace leaders Bayern Munich, who play Nuremberg on Saturday.

In Italy, Serie A leaders AC Milan will be desperate to rediscover their early season form with a win at Ancona.

Milan's Italian league crown is not as secure as it once seemed, and they badly need to recover their confidence in time for the European Champions Cup final against French side Olympique Marseille on May 26.

Marseille, of course, have problems of their own as Monaco continue to challenge their leadership of the French league.

The crucial Saturday match will be Monaco's game at third place Paris St Germain, while Marseille visit lowly Caen.



Hostesses for the first East Asian Games pass the Olympic and national flags as they leave Shanghai Stadium following the Chinese Taipei flag-raising ceremony yesterday. The young receptionists, aged 17 to 19, are students of the Shanghai Tourism Training School.

Navratilova, Sanchez in qtrs

ROME, May 7: No. 1 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and No. 2 Martina Navratilova on Thursday reached the quarterfinals of the Italian Open, and 16-year-old Italian qualifier Francesca



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA

Bentivoglio pulled the upset of the day to join them, reports AP.

Before a noisy partisan crowd at the Foro Italico, Bentivoglio ousted No. 15 seed Natalia Zvereva 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 in a nearly three-hour night match.

Bentivoglio, ranked 329 in the world, had earlier defeated No. 7 Jana Novotna after gaining entry to the tournament through the qualifying round.

Navratilova, playing her first

tournament after a 10-week layoff, defeated Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu 6-4, 6-4 in a two-hour match. The match was interrupted for three hours by rain.

Sanchez Vicario moved ahead with ease, defeating Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-0.

Also advancing were No. 4 seed Mary Joe Fernandez, who downed Mary Pierce 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-3) and No. 5 Jennifer Capriati, who beat South Africa's Amanda Coetzer 7-6 (8-6), 4-6, 6-2 in a baseline battle.

Navratilova's layoff, due to an injury to her right ankle while playing basketball, was the longest of her 18-year professional career. Her game against the 16th seeded Sawamatsu was far from sharp.

She led 2-0 before the rains came, then moved to 4-0 after play resumed. But she then allowed the Japanese woman to get back in the match.

"She played well after she was not in awe of me," said the 36-year Navratilova, one of the greatest women tennis players ever.

After dominating at the net, the American began hitting short approach shots, on the red clay, and her opponent scored repeatedly on forehand passing shots.

But Navratilova picked up her game on the big points and

kept control of her serve and the game to prevail. Throughout the match, the center court crowd cheered loudly for Navratilova.

"They are getting more vocal every time I play. I love it, it's great, I think they are so enthusiastic I am still playing."



ARANTXA SANCHEZ

A year ago, Capriati was ousted by Coetzer in the round of 16, a time when the American's game was flagging after a promising professional start.

"Twelve months have made a lot of difference," the 17-year-old Capriati said.

Capriati had complained Wednesday of pain in her serving elbow, but said it felt fine in the match with Coetzer.

Becker, Edberg left in cold

HAMBURG, Germany, May 7: The German Open in its 13th year lost both its top seeds when Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker

both crashed out in the third round here on Thursday, reports AP.

Edberg, the top seed and defending champion, was beaten 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 by Spain's Emilio Sanchez, the number 16 seed, in a superb match, while Becker was outplayed by compatriot Bernd Karbacher 6-3, 6-4.

Edberg and Sanchez both used a combination of touch shots and power play and there was little to separate them for most of the 2 hour 19 min match.

Edberg led by a set 2-1 and held three break points but Sanchez escaped that crisis to level the match on his sixth set point and then gained a decisive break for 3-2 in the third set.

Even then, he faced a break point in the next game but Edberg netted a forehand and his final chance was gone.

Becker had a golden chance to reach the final, with eighth seed Karel Novacek going down 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/2) to Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson and no seeds left in his half of the draw.

But instead he fell to an opponent who, until this week, had won just three matches this year, losing in the first round eight times.

Karbacher, ranked 72

places below Becker at 76, chased every ball while Becker looked a little slow at times. Hitting deep to the baseline, he also made Becker look uncomfortable and rarely found his touch.

A break for 5-3 by returning a weak Becker second serve was enough to earn Karbacher the first set, and, after an early exchange of breaks in the second set, a forced Becker backhand error allowed Karbacher to break for 4-3.

Karbacher then kept his nerve, serving for victory, winning with his only ace of the match.

"I played all right and my form is improving but the other players know I am struggling at the moment and they have a chance," Becker said.

Strict sex tests, doping control in E Asian Games

SHANGHAI, May 7: The inaugural East Asian Games will implement strict sex tests and doping control, it was announced here on Friday, reports AP.

The decision was made during the fifth meeting of the coordination committee of the Olympic committees of East Asian countries and regions. Wei Jizhong, secretary general of the committee said in a press conference here.

Wei, who is also secretary general of the Chinese Olympic Committee, said that a medical commission was set up at the meeting.

The commission, headed by Wei himself, will be responsible for conducting sex tests, doping control and medical supervision during that May 9-18 Games in Shanghai.

It was also decided that another coordination committee meeting be held on May 17, one day before the closing of the Shanghai Games.

Decision was also made in the meeting that the second East Asian Games will be held in Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in 1995. The date has not yet been fixed.

When asked whether any city had applied to host the third Games, Wei said that the coordination committee had not received any application.

Wrath of gods

HONG KONG, May 7: Two Japanese mountain climbers have died and another three were missing after an avalanche on a 5,000-metre (16,500-foot) peak in southwest China, an official report said Friday, reports AP.

The Beijing-run China News Service said the five climbers were part of a six-man team attempting to climb Laxi peak in Sichuan province on May 1. The mountain is some 400 kilometres (240 miles) west of the provincial capital of Chengdu.

The avalanche struck when the team was within 300 metres (1,000 feet) of the top, sweeping all but one of the men away, the report said. It said the survivor later found two of his colleagues' bodies, but said the other three men had still not been found.

The report said their chances of survival were "very small."

It said bad weather had hindered rescue efforts and snow had covered up the two bodies before they could be found.

Wankdorf Stadium not safe, says FIFA

ZURICH, May 7: The Swiss national team has been banned from playing at the Wankdorf Stadium in Bern after football's international governing body FIFA judged it unsafe, reports AP.

Sepp Blatter, the FIFA secretary general, described the ground as "much too old" and dangerous in a letter to the Swiss Football Association.

The news will be a blow to the Swiss, who are aiming to host either the World Cup in 1998 or the European Championship in 2004.

The 1954 World Cup final was the last international football tournament held in Switzerland.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dateless guys

6 Bridge positions

11 UPS delivery

12 Tec

14 Dance girl in "Peer Gynt"

15 Dakota capital

16 "But — on forever" (Tennyson)

17 Leg

19 Zilch

20 Beatty and Buntline

22 Peoples of "Fame"

23 Wilma

24 Halloween option

26 Nursery furnishing

28 Nameley: abbr.

30 Bobby Shaftoe's bailiwick

31 Ricocheted

35 March honoree, for short

39 Ripley's "Believe

— Not!"

40 Sheepish remark

42 Sousa-phone's kin

43 Item in 26

44 Across

46 Pokey's pal

46 Twitch

47 Canine coat?

49 Bouffant, for one

51 Roosevelt in-law

52 1950s music, e.g.

53 Auto style

54 Patronizes the library

DOWN

1 Birth-control

3 Margaret

2 Three-part vacuum tube

3 Earn an Oscar, maybe

4 Bacterium

5 Done in

6 Sightings

7 MacGraw and Baba

8 "I'll — You in My Dreams"

9 Root of the mustard family

10 Bitter enmity

11 Graffiti's supply

13 "The face that

launched 1,000 ships"

18 Pinch

21 Enjoy the taste

23 Brother of Morgan and Virgil

25 Bob Cratchit's youngest

27 Whom DDE defeated

29 Mr. Pike, of peak fame

31 Gave as an example

32 Expriates

33 1967 movie, "Casino —"

34 Weir

36 Rotten-smelling

37 Tolerates

38 Pre-siesta lunch

41 Can't stomach

44 Actress Rowlands

45 Harvard's rival

48 Incensed

50 Rhoda's mom

SOLUTION TIME: 28 MINS.

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CRYPTOQUIP

O Q K U K T S K O Z P K Y K N

E G S V K Y K S ' U U G E K G V P Z T K

OD CU: "WCW'U OQK NDSV."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN FARMER TURNED ON THE RADIO IN HIS CORN FIELDS, IT WAS MUSIC TO HIS EARS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: C equals U

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.