

Sport

Different ways for one goal

LONDON, Nov 2: Barcelona and AC Milan may react in contrasting fashion to sobering weekend league defeats when they go into their European Cup second-round second-leg matches on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

timely warning of their sometimes fickle form. They were three goals up at half-time with a hat-trick from Brazilian ace Romario, only to concede four after the interval in a 4-3 defeat.

sent off in the first-leg. Monaco's Belgian midfielder Enzo Scifo warred against over-confidence. "We must not think the match is just a formality," he said.

Jackson, Gunnell athletes-of-year

LONDON, Nov 2: British hurdlers Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell were named on Monday as international athletes-of-the-year by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), reports Reuter.



British athletes Colin Jackson (R) and Sally Gunnell (L), world champions in their respective disciplines, receive the International Amateur Athletics Federation trophy for the top athletes-of-the-year in Monaco on Nov 1. — AFP photo

It is time for a real test

Zimbabwe, the youngest member of the Test cricket fraternity, are in Bangladesh to play two one-day matches against the home team. Their visit is definitely most welcome in the context to Bangladesh's preparation for the forthcoming ICC Trophy.

Flower, who has been given the job with an eye on the future, has already made his mark in the international scene. He is an accomplished opening batsman and has a safe pair of hands behind the stumps.

ity and potential to become a good leader. He has the experience of leading club and university sides. Athar Ali, who had a very successful tour in India and Sri Lanka (45, 59, 81, 31 and 21 respectively are some of his notable scores) is possibly going to open the innings, a role he is reported to have played successfully during the recent tour.

Lineker sidelined

TOKYO, Nov 2: Former England striker Gary Lineker will miss the rest of the Japanese soccer season to undergo intensive treatment in the United States for a broken right toe, Kyodo news agency reported on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Mixed day for Swedes in Paris

PARIS, Nov 2: Marc Goellner, one of the players carrying German hopes in next months Davis Cup final against Australia, continued his nightmare run of results here on Monday when he was beaten in the first-round at the two-million dollar Paris Open, reports AFP.

overhit the lines and sprayed the simplest of returns wide or into the net, to be whistled and booed by the notoriously noisy Paris crowd. Svensson, 27 and a semifinalist here in 1990 and 1991, teased Goellner with a mixture of drop-shots and baseline steadiness, and the German was never able to establish any pace or rhythm.

he was beaten in just 64 minutes by 20th-ranked Swede Magnus Gustafsson. It was the third year running that Ferreira was beaten in his opening match inside the futuristic stadium to the south-east of the capital. Gustafsson, winner at Stuttgart this year and returning to the form that made him a top-ten player two years ago, scored a 7-6 (7-1), 6-1 victory for the dubious pleasure of facing world number-two Jim Courier in the next round.

Austin toils for victory

OAKLAND, California, Nov 2: Tracy Austin struggled to a 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 victory over Tatiana Ignatieva of Belarus on Monday in the first round of the 375,000 US dollars Bank of the West Classic tennis tournament, reports Reuter. Despite serving 17 double faults and struggling with her control, the 30-year-old Austin, who won the 1979 and 1981 US Opens as a teenager, won the last three games of the match. "I'm extremely happy to have gotten it out," said Austin. "I was not playing that well and my serve was awful."

On the 18th October last year Zimbabwe's dream of playing a Test match came true when they took the field against the visiting Indian side and it was definitely creditable that they could hold on to a draw. So far they have played four Tests; two each against India and New Zealand; they lost two (one each against each) and drew the rest and are yet to achieve their maiden victory.

The strength of Zimbabwe is obviously in their batting and if their batsmen get going Bangladesh bowlers may have to toil to contain their total within their reach. However, if our batsmen concentrate and apply themselves, the bowling may not be that difficult to handle. Of course, the unknown outfit should not overawe them. The recent outings in India and Sri Lanka must have given them the chance of facing up to a wide variety of bowling. In Hope they have learnt a few hard lessons well during the sojourn abroad.

The behaviour of the wicket is rather unpredictable. We had lot of rain this summer; it did not cease until about a fortnight, which allowed very little time for the preparation of the wicket. It would be natural to expect lot of moisture underneath. So a hard and fast track, where stroke-making is easy, cannot be expected. Batsmen shall have to watch till the last moment before going for a stroke.

Asian eves soccer in Malaysia Dec 3

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 2: China will defend their Asian women's soccer title when the championships, held every two years, kick-off in Malaysia on December 3, Asian Football Confederation officials said on Tuesday, reports Reuter. China were grouped with Malaysia and North and South Korea in Pool A after the draw in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday. Japan, runners-up in 1991, have Hong Kong, the Philippines and Taiwan to contend with in Pool B.

Leconte wins the fans, duel

PARIS, Nov 2: Henri Leconte brought the home fans roaring to their feet inside the Bercy Stadium when, not for the first time, he won a match he looked certain to lose in the first-round of the 2,165,000 dollar Paris Open, reports AFP. The 30-year-old left-hander stared defeat in the face when he trailed 0-3 in the second-set of his match against compatriot Thierry Champion.

eleventh game and the second at 7-6 in the tie-break — but failed to convert either. Champion, a qualifier who has slumped to a lowly 237th in the rankings and whose last match in Paris ended in a historic 0-6, 0-6, 0-6 second-round humiliation at the French Open to eventual champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain, looked serene as he surged clear in the second set. But Leconte, who last year upset Pete Sampras and Wally Masur to reach the quarter-finals before being forced to withdraw because of a heel injury, suddenly burst into life. Leconte, who was given a standing ovation as he came off court, now plays tenth-seeded compatriot Cedric Pioline for a place in the third-round. Champion shrugged off the defeat. "That's Henri," he said with a sigh. "To play him anywhere isn't easy. But to play him here in Bercy where the crowds really get behind him, it is impossible. "I think if we had been

playing anywhere else I would have won. "Everything was fine when I was leading 3-0 in the second set. But once he got back level he just played better and better." Leconte admitted: "It was a very tough match physically but especially mentally. I was very tense when I went out there. "Playing a fellow-Frenchman who has already three qualifying matches behind him and who is such an awkward opponent, it isn't easy to play your best tennis. "To make matters worse I played really badly at the start." Looking forward to his clash today with Pioline, Leconte said: "I've got nothing to lose against him, that's for sure, and I like this kind of match where I start the underdog." "It could be a good match... providing I play the way I did in the third set today." "If I play the way I played early on against Thierry, then it will be over quickly and I'll be saying 'au revoir."

ATP's top 20

Table listing ATP's top 20 singles rankings. Includes names like Pete Sampras (3,790 points), Jim Courier (3,759), and Magnus Gustafsson (1,281).



Groundsmen are rolling the two pitches for the Gold Leaf one-day international series between Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. The first match will be played at the Dhaka Stadium today followed by the second and the last one tomorrow at the same venue. — Star photo

Agassi resumes training

PARIS, Nov 2: Andre Agassi, unable to compete at this week's Paris Open and doomed to finish the 1993 season ranked outside the top 20, has been given the green light to resume light training, reports AFP. The 1992 Wimbledon champion, currently ranked 23rd, has been a top-bracket player since 1987. He has been out of action with a wrist injury for the last month.

Jiang betters own mark

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 2: China's Jiang Chuhua rode to a world junior record Tuesday in the Asian Cycling Championships, winning the junior women's 500-metre time trial in 37.417 seconds, reports AP. The 18-year-old high school student from Dalian broke her own mark of 37.773, set in the World Junior Championships in Perth, Australia last month. South Korea's Oh Se-ok was second in 38.559 and Liao Lihua of Taiwan third in 39.818. Also in the junior portion of the championships, South Korea's Hong Suk-han won the men's 1-kilometer time trial in 1 minute, 8.572 seconds. He was followed by China's Wang Chengpeng in 1:09.737 and Chang Min-yang of Taiwan in 1:10.641. In the senior men's 1-kilometer time trial, Kazakhstan's Alexander Napohenko made an impressive dash to brush aside 11 other riders.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 27 minutes and a grid with some letters filled in.

Cryptoquip puzzle section. Includes a grid of numbers and letters, and a list of words to be deciphered. The solution is provided at the bottom: ISSUVX HVJYDXIQ DSHX IS QJIVUX VJ IVYD. Cryptoquip: I CHOSE CROOKED CANDIDATES EVEN THOUGH I VOTED A STRAIGHT TICKET.