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Samir Shakir (C), Abahani's Iraqi coach, sitting with compatriots Nazir Ali Hossain (L) and Jamal Jabbar Hamid (R), who arrived in the capital yesterday to play for Abahani.

Two Iraqi booters for Abahani

Sports Reporter
Abahani Krira Chakra, one of the top clubs of the country have recruited two Iraqi booters in a bid to beef-up their frontline.

Taylor takes over reins

SYDNEY, May 19: Mark Taylor was chosen today as Australia's new cricket captain and immediately promised to curb intimidation of opponents, reports Reuter.



MARK TAYLOR

Australian squad on the tour of Sri Lanka and Pakistan beginning in September. On his return, he will defend the Ashes on home soil against England.

The squad, named by the Australian Cricket Board on Thursday is: Taylor (captain), Healy (vice-captain), Joe Angel, Michael Bevan, Boon, Damien Fleming, Justin Langer, Tim May, Craig McDermott, Glen McGrath, Gavin Robertson, Michael Slater, Shane Warne, Steve Waugh, Mark Waugh.

Bolivar want Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, May 19: Diego Maradona has been offered one million dollars by Bolivian club Bolivar to help them reach the regional Libertadores Cup final, reports Reuter.

Bolivar's Argentine coach Jose Omar Pastoriza told the local Radio Mitre station that he hoped to hire Maradona, 33, to play for the La Paz club after the World Cup finals.

Maradona, who broke his contract with local side Newell's Old Boys in February, would have to play six matches for Bolivar to pocket the cash.

Aussie tour itinerary

SYDNEY, May 19: Schedule for the Australian cricket tour to Sri Lanka and Pakistan in September-November.
SHRI LANKA:
Sept 4: Sri Lanka v India (d/n), Ketharama Stadium

Pringle stifles England

BIRMINGHAM, England, May 19: Chris Pringle took a personal best haul of five wickets on Thursday as England suffered a middle-order collapse on their way to 224 for eight in the first one-day international at Edgbaston, reports AP.

before Stewart became too ambitious. Stewart tried to pull a short ball from Pringle to the boundary, but Dion Nash was there to take an easy catch at long leg.

team after skipping the West Indies tour, was bowled for 23 in the 40th over when Thomson's delivery brushed his pads and hit the off-stump.

No alcohol please!

PASADENA, May 19: Alcohol sales and consumption were banned Wednesday in most areas of the Rose Bowl for World Cup matches, and restaurateurs were asked to curtail alcohol sales during games, reports AP.

Barcelona blown away

ATHENS, May 19: AC Milan found the way back to champagne soccer on Wednesday night, humiliating Barcelona in a crushing 4-0 win to lift the European Cup, reports Reuter.

Savicevic, a soccer genius who will sadly not be at the World Cup finals starting in less than a month, scored a stunningly outrageous goal two minutes after the interval.

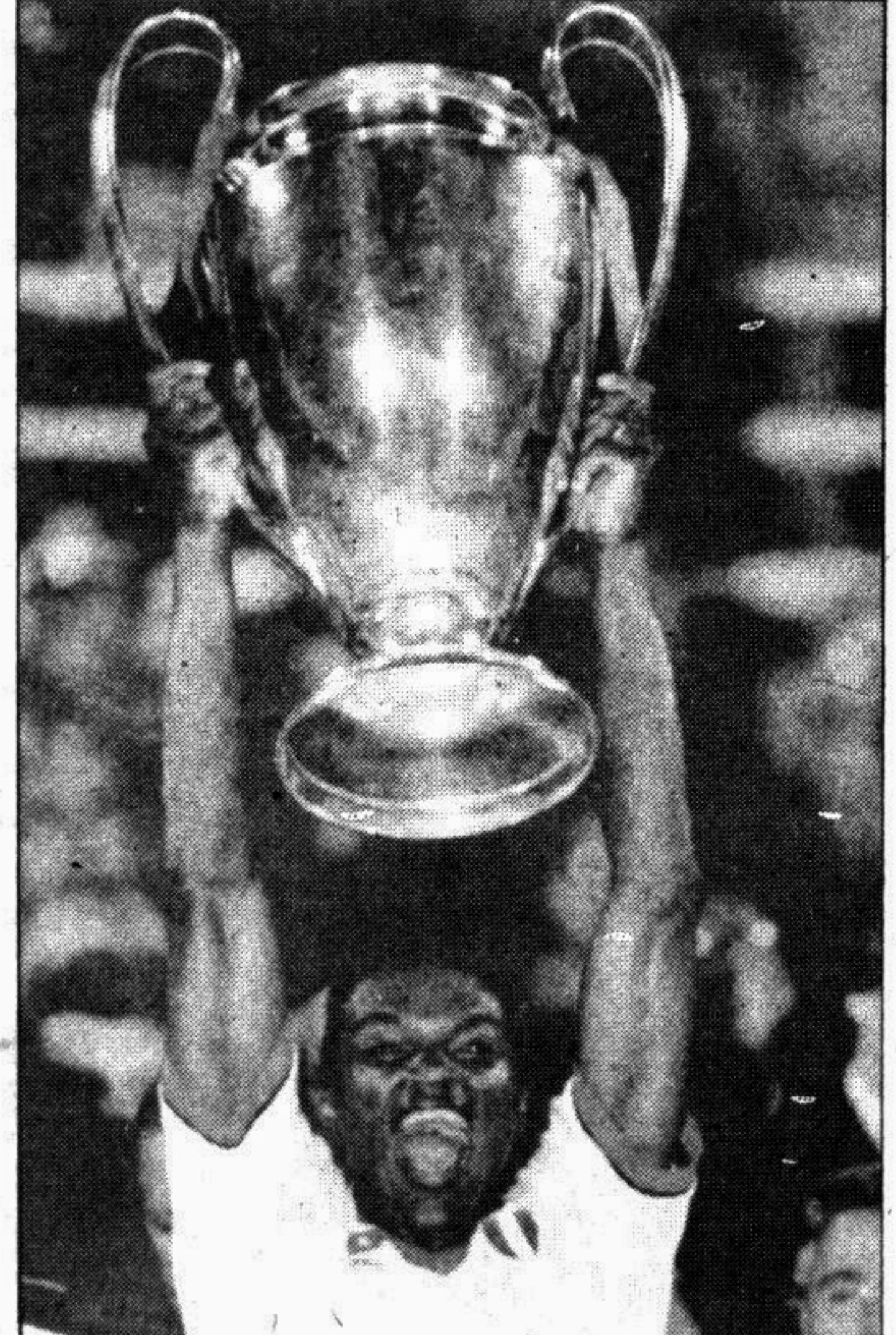
mance were a perfect vindication for the often maligned Milan trainer Fabio Capello, criticized for a defensive approach which contrasted sharply with the club's style in the heyday of Arrigo Sacchi.

AC Milan simply awesome

Two first half goals from Daniele Massaro and two early in the second period from Dejan Savicevic and Marcel Desailly sealed the issue in a majestic team performance unmatched in many a year at Europe's usually disappointing annual soccer showpiece.

Milan started to look contemptuous of the opposition as they add a fourth in the 58th minute Demetrio Albertini slipping through for Frenchman Desailly to run clear and score.

Milan lifted the European Cup for the fifth time and are now just one short of Real Madrid's record. It was the eighth win by an Italian club.



AC Milan's Marcel Desailly lifts the European Cup after his team beat Barcelona at the Athens' Olympic Stadium in Greece on Wednesday. Milan trounced Barcelona 4-0.

Indonesia in Thomas Cup final

JAKARTA, May 19: Favourites Indonesia stormed into the Thomas Cup badminton final with a 4-1 victory over South Korea on Wednesday, setting up the prospect of an epic clash with defending champions Malaysia.

Chile hold Argentina

SANTIAGO, Chile, May 19: Veteran defender Oscar Ruggeri headed an 83rd minute equaliser to give World Cup qualifiers Argentina a 3-3 draw with Chile on Wednesday in a friendly which gave Argentine fans plenty to worry about, reports Reuter.

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