

Nirma DMFA Cup Wari in Group B final

Wari booked their berth for the Group B final of the MDFA Nirma Cup football tournament...

Hassan Imam scored the match-winning in the 37th minute of the first half. Wari will now play in the group final on Monday...

In the day's first match, PWD SC overcame Eskaton Sabuj Sangha 5-3...

Bulbul of PWD and Alamgir of Eskaton were cautioned.

Schools h'ball

Holders Viharunnisa Noon School got off to a flying start in the sixth Schools Girls' handball tournament...

Quamrunnihar netted seven goals while Parveen, Meherun and Maimuna scored one each for the winners.

Earlier in the afternoon, Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Jon J Scott inaugurated the 11-day competition...

TODAY'S MATCHES Dhanmondi Govt Girls' High School vs Rajarbagh Police Lines High School (4 pm)...

Orient Bread schools kabaddi

KL Jubilee High School and Haider Ali High School won their respective matches in the fifth Orient Bread schools kabaddi tournament...

In the first match, KL Jubilee High beat Kamalapur High School 57-40...

Haider Ali High faced no trouble in beating Deepshikha Primary School 59-10...

The winners were leading the first half 30-7.

Div I b'ball

Sports Reporter Lalbagh S C scored a hard earned victory over Shaons by 69-60 points...

The winners led 37-30 at the breather. Eagles take on Dhumketu and Josephites face Hornets today at the same venue.

Fortunato's unfortunate demise

TURIN, Apr 26: Juventus defender Andrea Fortunato, who had been suffering from leukaemia, died in hospital in Perugia on Tuesday night aged 23, reports Reuter.

Doctors said Fortunato died from heart and lung complications after bone marrow treatment. His illness was diagnosed last May.

Italy's national team planned to wear black armbands and hold a minute's silence before tonight's European Championship qualifier against Lithuania...

Fortunato played his only international in September 1993, when Italy beat Estonia 3-0.

He made his professional debut with Second Division Como in 1989 and moved in 1993 to Juventus, for whom he made 27 appearances...

Sampras withdraws

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Apr 26: Top-seeded Pete Sampras dropped out of his opening match Wednesday when he twisted his right ankle in the second set against Paul Haarhuis...

Sampras won the first set, 6-4, and was chasing a ball at 1-1 in the second set when his foot caught on the clay.

After a few minutes of treatment, Sampras decided to quit. His ankle was wrapped with ice and he was helped off the court by two trainers.

Sampras lost in his opening match at Barcelona two weeks ago but was looking forward to doing well here.

Boris Becker, second-seeded, routed Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden, 6-3, 6-1, and third-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia easily advanced with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Mark Woodforde.

Haynes out, Bishop back

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 26: In a decision likely to spark widespread controversy, veteran opening batsman Desmond Haynes has been left out of the West Indies squad to tour England starting next month, reports Reuter.

The party of 17 named by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) on Tuesday includes a recall for injury-plagued paceman Ian Bishop.

Haynes, who has taken high court action in his native Barbados against the WICBC over his exclusion from the team for the current Test series against Australia, had been tipped to return for the six-Test tour from May 9.

But the selectors opted for young openers Stuart Williams and Sherwin Campbell, despite their unimpressive records in Test and one-day international cricket to date.

Haynes' exclusion was the only major surprise, although another Barbadian, all-rounder Vasbert Drakes, was unlucky not to be included after playing forcefully in the one-day series against Australia last month.

Ottis Gibson, a tearaway fast bowler and hard-hitting middle order batsman with English county experience for Glamorgan, won a place instead.

The selectors included a reserve wicketkeeper, Courtney Browne, and opted for Bishop ahead of a number of younger rivals.

Bishop, whose career has twice been interrupted by stress fractures of the back, made an encouraging return to first-class cricket this year, capturing 16 wickets at 19.12 each in the Red Stripe Cup.

Bishop has not played Test cricket for the past two years, but his overall record is 83 wickets in 18 Tests at an average of 20.46.

Haynes, who has played 116 Tests and 239 one-day international Tests, was left out of the current series because of his failure to comply with a WICBC edict that he return from playing provincial cricket in South Africa to complete a full domestic season.

Haynes, however, was in top form in the four matches he did play in the Red Stripe Cup.

He topped the averages at 67.14, had a highest score of 201 and was the major factor in Barbados' wins in the cup.

WICBC chief executive officer Steve Camacho said in a statement the long tour provided the 'ideal situation in which to groom our future opening batsmen.'

'In this circumstance the selection committee reached a decision that it was in the best long term interest of West Indies cricket to retain the young opening batsmen who had been selected for the last three tours,' he said.

Haynes' legal counsel, Theodore Walcott, declined to comment on the matter, or whether it would affect the court action taken on the 39-year-old opener's behalf which seeks damages for restraint of trade.

Camacho told Reuters the legal action had no bearing on the selectors' decision.

'We said publicly he was eligible for selection,' he said. Bishop's recall follows his latest comeback after a long battle to recover from his back injuries.

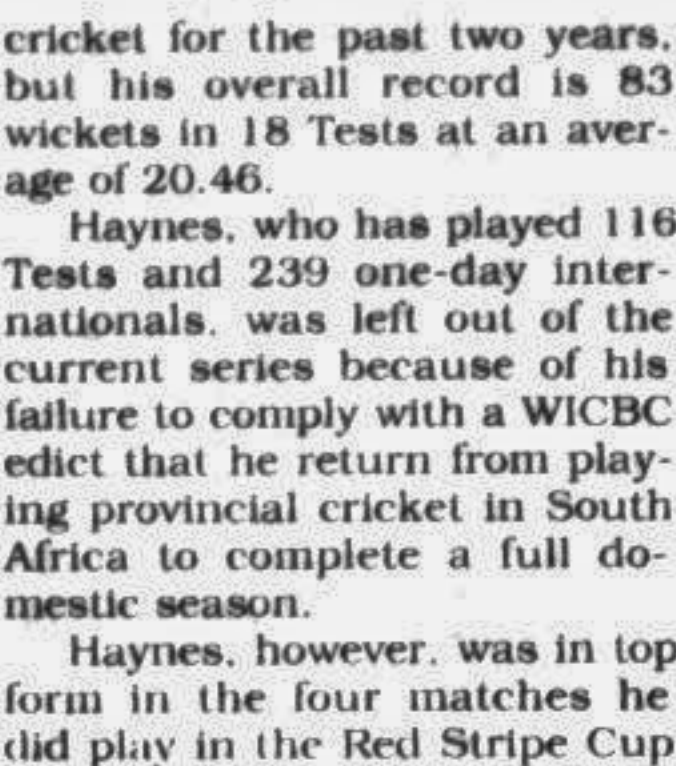
The 27-year-old Trinidadian, who seemed destined to follow in the great tradition of West Indian fast bowlers, broke down early in his Test career.

Camacho said Bishop was an important part of the Caribbean side's plans.

'It is hoped that the many opportunities for first-class cricket will help restore Ian Bishop to his best form,' he said in the statement.

The selection committee is of the view that the return to full effectiveness of this proven and outstanding fast bowler is of great importance to the immediate and long term future of our cricket.'

Richie Richardson (captain), Sherwin Campbell, Stuart Williams, Brian Lara, Carl Hooper, Jimmy Adams, Keith Arthurton, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Junior Murray, Courtney Browne, Ottis Gibson, Winston Benjamin, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Kenny Benjamin, Ian Bishop, Rajindra Dhanraj.



IAN BISHOP

first-class competition, and chairman of selectors David Hollford had indicated he would be considered for the England tour.

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Guido remembers Maradona well!

ASUNCION, Paraguay, Apr 26: Striker Guido Alvarenga, who plays for Argentine soccer league team Deportivo Mandiyu, has fond memories of his former coach, Diego Maradona, reports AP.

'With Maradona coaching, we never won a game, but we had great parties,' Alvarenga told his hometown newspaper Noticias-El Diario in an interview. 'More than once we went home with a terrific hangover,' Alvarenga said.

Maradona coached Mandiyu from September to December, 1994, winning one in twelve league matches and dropping to the bottom of the standings.

'The whole team liked Diego very much. The only problem was that we never won a match,' Alvarenga said. 'Almost every night we had big barbecues with beef, chicken and fish. We really had fun.'

After the unsuccessful stint with Mandiyu, Maradona signed on as coach of Racing Club, winning two matches, losing three and tying four in the current tournament.

Maradona, who is serving a 15-month suspension for using a banned stimulant in the USA-94 World Cup, has said he will play for Racing after the suspension ends in September.

Ali off to DPRK

TOKYO, Apr 26: Former world boxing heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali and a group of wrestlers left Japan for North Korea today to attend the secretive communist state's first series of professional wrestling matches, reports Reuter.

A 120-member delegation of wrestlers and singers from Japan and overseas, led by Japanese pro wrestler-turned-parliamentarian Kanji Inoki, left on a chartered flight for an international sports and culture festival in Pyongyang.

In contrast to similar sports events in the past, North Korea is welcoming foreign visitors and journalists to the April 28-30 festival, which is seen as a cautious step by Pyongyang towards opening more to the outside world.

A spokeswoman for the New Japan Professional Wrestling Corporation said Ali was invited to attend the festival as a special guest.

Asked whether Inoki or Ali would meet North Korea's top leaders during their stay in Pyongyang, she said their schedule would be formally fixed by North Korea when they arrived.

North Korea's communist government and the Japanese Professional Wrestling Group jointly organised the event in line with Pyongyang's efforts to boost tourism following the death of its late President Kim Il-Sung.

Diaz leaving Marinos

TOKYO, Apr 26: Argentinian striker Ramon Angel Diaz said Wednesday he would leave Yokohama Marinos of the Japanese Football League as he is not in the strategic plans of team manager Jorge Raul Solari, reports AFP.

'It's not my intention to leave the team. It's because I was out of my manager's strategic plan. I feel very sorry to my fans,' said Diaz, 35, the winner of the 1979 World Youth Championships with Diego Maradona.

Diaz became the top goalscorer in the inaugural 1993 J-League with 28 goals.

match battles between rival fans that broke out after the match, the ANSA news agency reported.

Another person went to the hospital after he was struck in the neck in a pre-game fracas between about 20 supporters of the two squads, ANSA said.



The captain of the winning team in the amateur soccer tournament Sergey Zyrianov's Cup held at the North Pole on April 22 holds the trophy as Sergey Zyrianov looks on. Zyrianov, a Russian businessman organised the extraordinary event.

World Youth Championship final tomorrow

All-S American affair

DOHA, Apr 26: Argentina set up an all-South American final at the World Youth Championship with a 3-0 win over Spain in the semifinal on Tuesday, reports AP.

Leonardo Biagini gave Argentina the lead after 21 minutes when he scored from the edge of the box following a poor header from Spanish defender Cesar Martin.

Argentina meet Brazil in Friday's final. Spain had dominated the first half but Argentinian goalkeeper Joaquin Irigoytia came to his team's rescue making three good saves to keep out Ivan de la Pena on two occasions.

Roger Junyent hit the post for Spain from a 34th minute free-kick. Walter Coyette added Argentina's second goal after 53 minutes when he scored from the left-hand side of the box.

Spain were reduced to just 10 men one minute later when referee Hermann Albrecht sent off Antoni Tejedor for handball.

Substitute Raul Chapparo added the third goal with 10 minutes left. He hit the post following Biagini's cross, but he picked himself up to put in the rebound.

Maestro trio on the move

LONDON, Apr 26 (AP): Juergen Klinsmann appears to be headed from Tottenham to Bayern Munich.

Manchester United's Eric Cantona is considering a move to Inter Milan. Lazio's Paul Gascoigne could be coming home to England.

According to reports, the careers of English soccer's three most colorful characters coming together now, it's always nice being back home and Bayern Munich is the top club in Germany.

Tottenham hope to stop him going by offering him a new deal. But British reports were pessimistic about him staying and added that Spurs also are likely to lose their Romanian World Cup stars, Ilie Dumitrescu and Giga Popescu.

Cantona, meanwhile, is thinking over an improved Tottenham midfielder, who has been sidelined for a year after a double fracture of his right leg, has just returned to action with Lazio of Rome but is unhappy about the way he's being handled by coach Zdenek Zeman.

Gascoigne, who played only the last 14 minutes of the game against Roma Sunday, says Zeman plays him in the wrong position, wide on the left instead of centre midfield where he can play a more influential role.

Although Gascoigne, who turns 28 next month, is immensely popular with the Lazio fans, British reports say his disagreements with Zeman may lead to a return home to Tottenham. Newcastle, Manchester United, Blackburn or Everton.

So it looks like the three soccer superstars will be avoiding each other again.

Cantona moved to English soccer with Leeds in the 1991-92 season after Gascoigne had transferred from Tottenham to Lazio.

When Klinsmann arrived this season, Tottenham faced Manchester United for their second game of the season but Cantona missed the game through suspension. When the two clubs met last month, the Frenchman again was ruled out through the ban imposed for attacking the Palace fan.

Real maintain stranglehold

MADRID, Apr 26: Real Madrid saw their hold at the top of the Spanish First Division strengthened Sunday when Oviedo scored with five minutes remaining to hold Deportivo La Coruna to a 2-2 draw, reports AP.

The result left Madrid, who defeated Valencia 3-1 on Saturday with 46 points, seven more than Deportivo and eight over Barcelona, who defeated Valladolid 4-1.

With 19-8-3 record, and only eight rounds to go, Madrid are drawing closer to their 26th league title and first in five years.

In other games Sunday, it was: Celta 2, Real Sociedad 1; Betis 3, Tenerife 0; Logrones 0, Atletico Madrid 0; Zaragoza 3, Albacete 0; Athletic Bilbao 1, Compostela 0; Sporting Gijon 0, Espanyol 0; and Sevilla 3, Racing Santander 0.

At La Coruna, Spanish international striker Julio Salinas gave Deportivo the lead in the 36th minute and Brazilian Bebeto made it 2-0 three minutes later.

But Oviedo bounced back in the opening moments of the second half with a goal by Olivero 'Oli' Alvarez Gonzalez while Croat Robert Prosinecki made it 2-2 in the 85th minute.

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Barcelona 4, Valladolid 1 in Barcelona, Dutch coach Johan Cruyff's son, Jordi, scored two of the goals in Barcelona's (15-8-7) 4-1 victory over lowly Valladolid (6-8-16). Cruyff netted the first in the eighth minute while Aitor Beguiristain made it 2-0 four minutes before halftime.

Cruyff got his second in the 57th, with Guillermo Amor making it four for Barcelona in the 85th minute. Alberto Lopez scored consolation goal for Valladolid in the 89th minute.

Zaragoza 3, Albacete 0. At Albacete, European Cup Winners' Cup finalists Zaragoza added to their midweek triumph over England's Chelsea by thrashing Albacete with goals by Argentine Juan Esnider, Paco Higuera and Higuera Padeza. Zaragoza improved to 16-5-9 while Albacete fell to 6-13-11 and 17th place.

Celta 2, Real Sociedad 1. At Vigo, Juan Sanchez scored five minutes into the second half for the game winner. Jesus Merino opened the scoring for Celta in the 36th minute with Jose Pikabea pulling back an equalizer a minute before the break. Celta drew into a virtual tie with So-

cialdad for 12th place. Both teams have 8-11-11 records and 27 points.

Betis 3, Tenerife 0. At Seville, Angel Cuellar scored two goals in the 28th and 67th minutes to help Betis trounce Tenerife. Roberto Merino slotted home the first for the home side in the 15th minute. Betis improved to 12-12-6 and 36 points, remaining in fifth while Tenerife fell to 12-7-11.

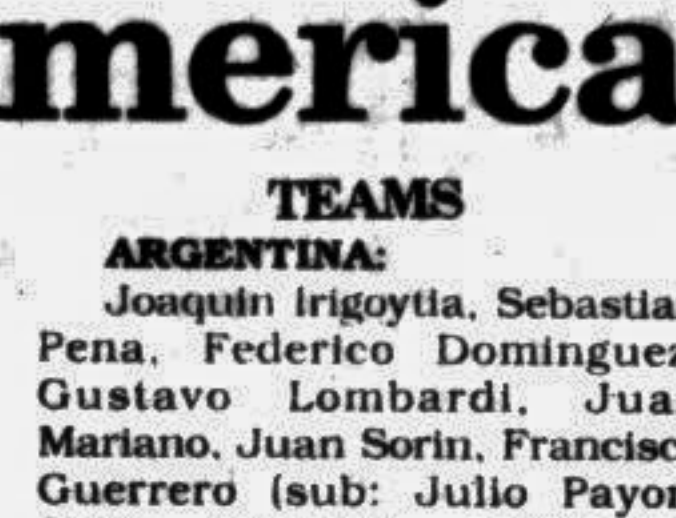
Athletic Bilbao 1, Compostela 0. At Bilbao, Ernesto Valverde scored the game's only goal in the 50th minute to give Athletic de Bilbao a narrow victory over Compostela. The win left Bilbao (11-10-9) with 32 points in eighth place while Compostela (8-10-12) fell within a point of the relegation zone.

Navy hockey

KHULNA, Apr 26: The Dhaka team retained the title of the Bangladesh Navy hockey championship '95 which concluded at the BNS Titumir playground yesterday, reports BSS.

In the final they defeated BNS Issa Khan 3-0 in the breaker, an ISPR press said today.

Paul Gascoigne



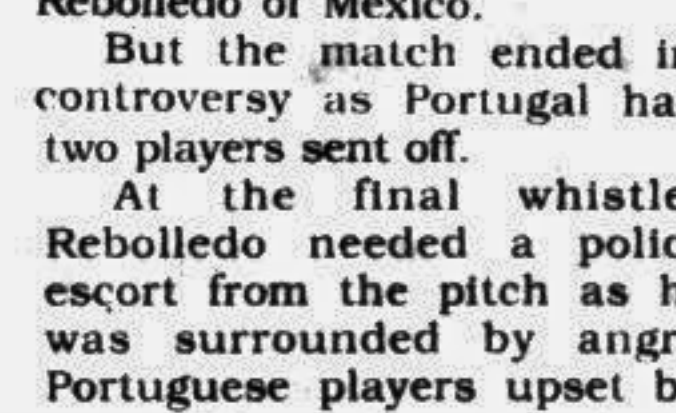
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ERIC CANTONA



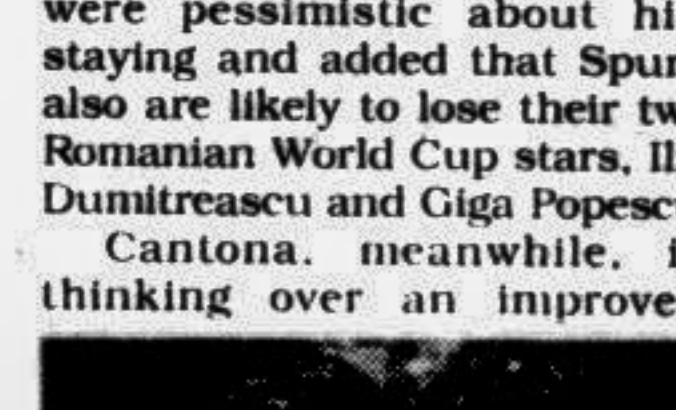
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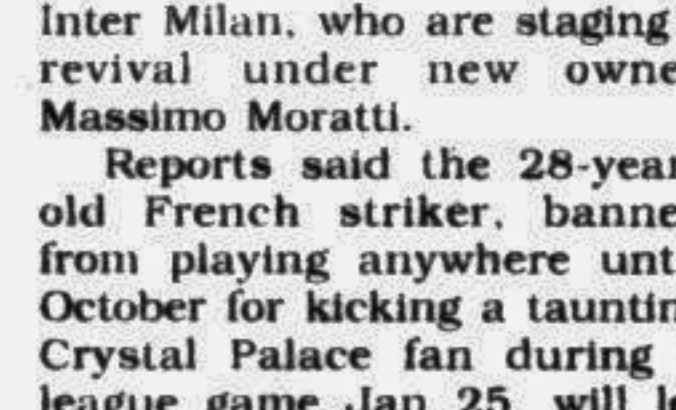
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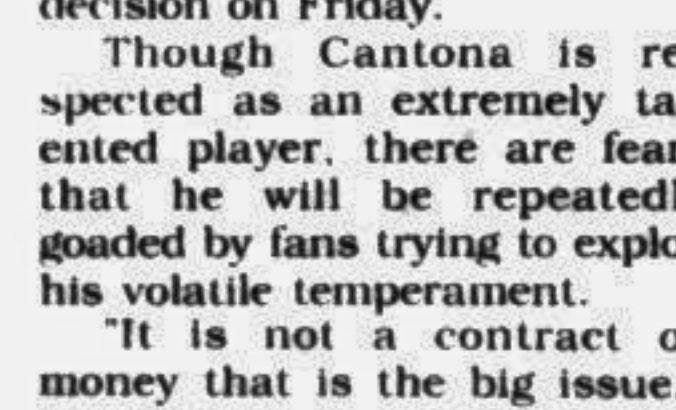
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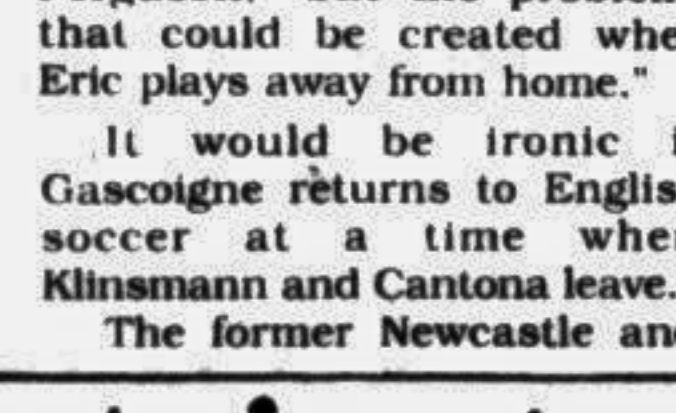
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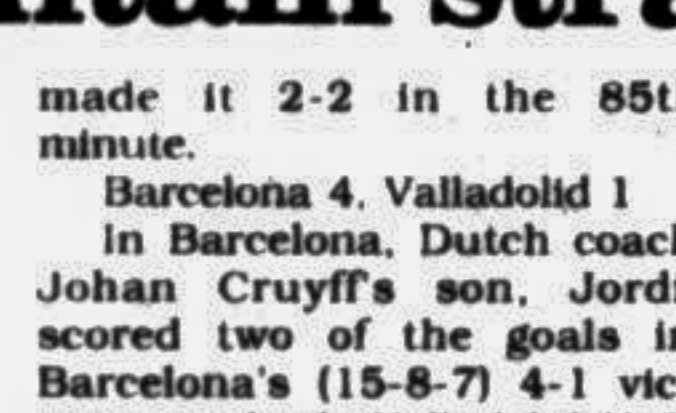
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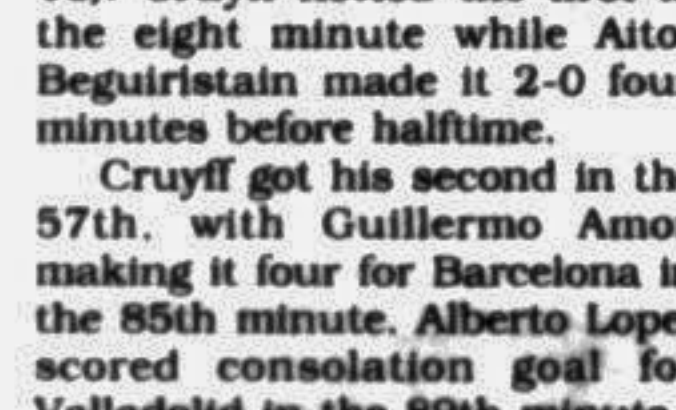
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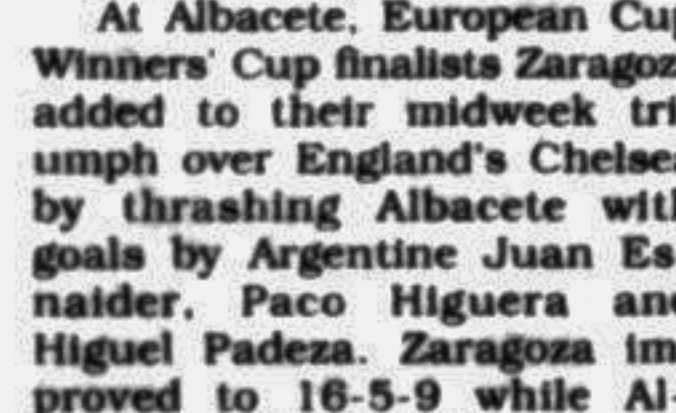
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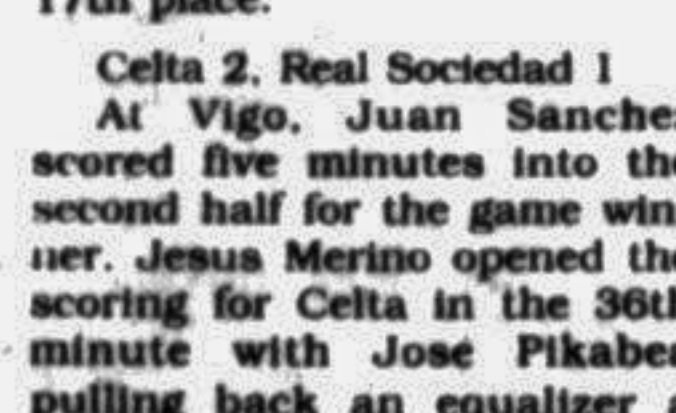
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