



Imran Khan, the former Pakistan skipper and the heartthrob of millions on the distaff side arrives at Paris' Orly Airport on Monday along with his fiancée Jemima Goldsmith to seek some privacy. The 42-year-old cricketer hero has decided to marry Jemima, 21, the daughter of Franco-British millionaire Sir Jimmy Goldsmith. The *walimah* is scheduled to be held in London on June 20. — AFP/UNB photo

## Federation Cup from May 26

Sports Reporter

The 13th Bexinco Federation Cup football tournament will commence from May 26 with twenty-one teams split into four groups competing in the first phase.

Two matches will be held on the inaugural day with Public Works Department (PWD) SC appearing in the first match against Police Athletic Club at 4 pm while Abahani Krira Chakra of Chittagong will take on Sadharan Bima KS in the other match billed for a 6 pm start.

All the matches will be held at the Dhaka Stadium.

The four top finishers from each group will earn promotion to the final round, scheduled to begin from June 6.

In the eight-team final-leg, defending champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra, one of the four automatic qualifiers in the last round along with last year's three other semifinalists, will lead one group. The three other teams are: Brothers Union and the champions from Group A and D.

Meanwhile, Abahani Krira, the last year's beaten finalists, have been placed in the other group along with arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club and the two top finishers from Group B and C.

The semifinals involving the two top finishers of each group will be held on June 13 and 14 respectively while the final is on June 16.

## National chess starts May 25

Sports Reporter

The first phase of the 21st national chess championship organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) begins from May 25.

All the rated players including those who qualified for the final-phase last year, national women's, junior and sub-junior champion, 16 from Dhaka, four from Chittagong, three each from Khulna and Barisal, two from Rajshahi and one from each district can take part in the primary phase.

Interested participants have been asked to complete registration formalities at the BCF office by May 24.

## Jadukar Samad soccer

Sports Reporter

Super Eagle moved into quarterfinals of the Jadukar Samad juvenile football tournament with a lone goal win over Ek Jakh Paira at the Azampur Community Centre ground yesterday.

After a barren first half, Ranzan struck the match-winner with a gem of a free-kick from well outside the box.

## Frankfurt down London

LONDON, May 16: Paul Justin threw two touchdown passes and Daron Alcorn kicked field goals from 32 and 38 yards as Frankfurt Galaxy scored a 27-7 victory over the London Monarchs Monday in the World League of American Football, reports AP.

In the hunt to see which of the other five World League teams plays Amsterdam Admirals in the World Bowl June 17 or 18.

## Imran's flight from press



LONDON, May 16: Pakistani cricketer Imran Khan said on Monday his fiancée, the daughter of tycoon Sir James Goldsmith, was prepared for an Islamic life in his homeland and he told reporters he was leaving Britain to seek some privacy, reports Reuters.

On Monday, the Goldsmiths said a simple civil ceremony between Khan, 42, and their 21-year-old daughter Jemima would take place on June 20 in the leafy London suburb of Richmond, to be followed by a party at their nearby mansion.

The surprise match between Khan, a retired playboy cricketer turned devout Muslim and one of the world's most eligible bachelors, and Goldsmith, a party-loving, wealthy British student, set tongues wagging and gossip columns scribbling.

Asked whether the future Mrs Khan could cope with life in Pakistan, Khan told reporters: "There has been a lot of comment about that, but the only reason for that is that people don't understand. But in time they will know."

Leaving Britain for France, he said: "Jemima is an intelligent woman who has thought it out. She knows what she wants. At the moment nobody knows about her. They think

she's some young fresh little girl. But in time that impression will be corrected."

Khan, who retired from cricket after leading Pakistan to victory in the 1992 World Cup, said he and his fiancée were flying out to "get away from London" and added that both families' attitude towards the wedding was "absolutely fine."

Referring to the storm of publicity, he said: "There's no privacy here with everything going on."

The union has caught the imagination of the British press which speculated on the suitability of the match.

Meanwhile an AFP report from Lahore adds: Several Pakistani religious figures expressed displeasure Monday over former cricketer Imran Khan's upcoming marriage to Jemima Goldsmith.

"We have supported his social work in the past, but we do not want to have any relationship with him in the future," said Ameerul Azim, central information secretary of the fundamentalist Jamaat-islami (JI) Party.

But Azim and his colleague Hafiz Mohammad Idris, JI president in Punjab province, termed the marriage "a personal affair" of the former cricketer captain, who has built a cancer hospital here.

Imran recently launched an education programme to promote literacy in the country, amid growing speculation that he was preparing to enter Pakistani politics.

"He is free to choose his life partner, but it seems his decision will not be welcome in Pakistan," said the provincial chief of JI, the country's most well-organised religious party.

He said it "has become doubtful whether Imran would now retain his image of a social reformer and the public goodwill earned by him."

Another religious leader, Maulana Ajmal Khan, president of the Radical Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI) Party, said the marriage was in accordance with Islamic tenets because Jemima had converted to Islam.

The president of Jamaat Ahle Hadith, Maulana Abdul Qadir Ropri, said there was nothing wrong as Imran Khan had "converted Jemima to Islam" before the wedding. "It is not such a big affair as to become the focus of our attention," Ropri said.

Former Pakistani cricketer, Sarfraz Nawaz, who is now an adviser on sports to the government, bitterly attacked Imran Khan, in remarks published in the Pakistani press. "The marriage is a Jewish conspiracy," he said.

## Klinsmann back at Bayern

MUNICH, May 16: Two days after his teary farewell in a Tottenham Hotspur uniform, striker Juergen Klinsmann signed a three-year contract on Tuesday with Bayern Munich worth more than five million dollars, reports AP.

Munich's management hopes the captain of Germany's national team will lift their club back to Europe's elite. Klinsmann, 30, fired 29 goals this year and was selected England's players-of-the-year for his play in the Premier League.

"If Juergen just shoots half of the goals he shot for Tottenham, we'll be very happy," said Munich's vice-president, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

The well-travelled striker, who has played for Inter Milan and A.S. Monaco, was bought from Tottenham for 1.93 million dollars and will receive a 2.06 million dollar signing bonus.

At Wednesday's signing, he donned a Munich jersey with the No. 18. It was the same number the blonde German made famous in Tottenham, where his tricot became a smash bestseller among the English team's fans.

After playing a series of friendlies with Tottenham in Asia, Klinsmann will finally return to Germany on May 27 after six years of playing abroad. He last played at home for VfB Stuttgart.

"I thought about where I wanted to live when I was done playing soccer and a lot spoke for Munich," Klinsmann said. "I'm close to both Stuttgart and Milan, the two cornerstones of my life thus far."

Munich, who have failed to find an effective scorer in recent years, have several candidates to line up alongside Klinsmann at forward.

They include Bulgarian national player Emil Kostadinov and Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin, both slowed by injuries this year. Also on the roster is Marcel Witeczek and 21-year-old talent Alexander Zickler.

## FIFA permits Cantona to play in France

LONDON, May 16: Eric Cantona, banned from soccer until September 30, has been given permission by FIFA to play in three charity matches in France but the English FA are unhappy they were not advised, reports Reuters.

"I have been authorised to play charity games. Playing again for me is fantastic and to do so for a humanitarian cause is even better," the controversial Manchester United striker said on Monday, the day after playing the first of the games.

FA spokesman Mike Parry said: "We did not know anything about this. If (FIFA general secretary) Sepp Blatter has given him clearance to play in a charity game for a good cause that is a matter for himself and his senior officers at FIFA."

"There were clearly exceptional circumstances but we will be talking to FIFA and seeking clarification."

Cantona, banned from playing after assaulting a Crystal Palace fan during a Premier League match on January 25, scored a goal for an All-Star XI in a 2-2 draw against a local amateur side near Paris on Sunday.

The game was played in front of a few hundred people for the benefit of Michel Platini's foundation to help drug addicts.

World soccer's governing body FIFA gave the Frenchman permission to appear in three games for the charity.

"To be able to play again was fabulous. And to do it for a charity is even more fabulous," Cantona said.

"FIFA have been very decent about this and proved they have a heart, for which I would like to thank them."

## Warwickshire under siege



LONDON, May 16: Warwickshire look like facing a major struggle to keep their triple English cricket crown as Lancashire completed a notable double at Old Trafford on Monday, reports Reuters.

The title-holders, beaten by Lancashire in the Sunday League 24 hours earlier, lost this time by six wickets as the home side completed a second county championship win and maintained their 100 per cent record in eight competitive matches this season.

Warwickshire, 194-3 overnight, were bowled out in

their second innings for 297, despite 50 by Dominic Ooster, England batsman John Crawley hit an unbeaten 56 as Lancashire completed victory on 150-4.

Warwickshire could also be strongly challenged by Northamptonshire, who claimed top spot in the championship table by taking just 45 minutes and 70 balls to score the 83 runs required to complete their second success of the season with Somerset being beaten by seven wickets.

Skipper Allan Lamb was 85 not out, hitting two sixes off 24 balls, while batsman Mohammad Akhramat finished the match.

Surrey sealed a big victory over Durham by an innings and 159 runs, the visitors totalling 224 after resuming on 56-2.

Middlesex needed just 40 deliveries to complete an innings and 30-run victory over

Worcestershire on a suspect pitch.

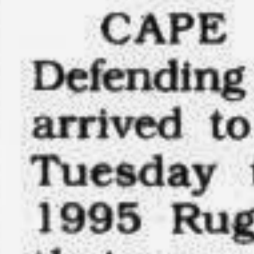
Tom Moddy was left unbeaten on 90 after Worcester, who had resumed on 161 for seven, were dismissed for 170 with Graeme Hick unable to bat because of his finger injury.

"The bounce was variable and quite a few people got rapped on their hands," said Worcester captain Tim Curtis.

The surface was marked "poor" by the umpires, prompting a visit from pitch officials from Lord's.

Worcester face the West Indies today on a pitch three metres away. Hick misses the game with his injury.

## Aussies arrive in S Africa



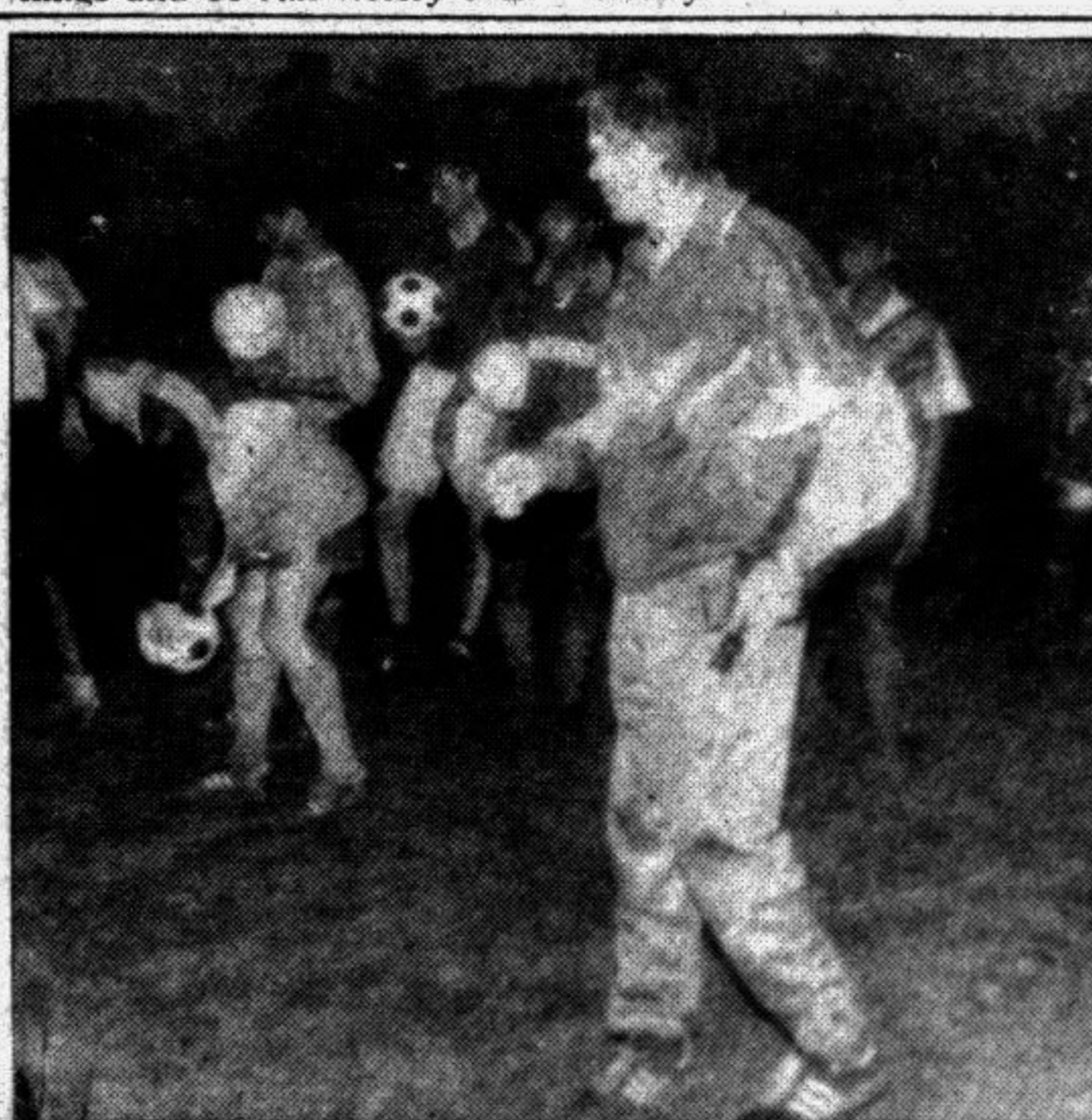
CAPE TOWN, May 16: Defending champions Australia arrived to a rousing welcome Tuesday to prepare for the 1995 Rugby World Cup and their opening match against South Africa, reports AP.

With theme song "Run Wallaby Run" blaring over hotel loudspeakers, the red-eyed players led by manager Peter Falk smiled at scores of cheering supporters.

The airport arrival was low key, with journalists kept away from the squad as it got off the overnight flight and climbed aboard a bus that took it to the hotel near the Newlands stadium where the first match takes place next Thursday.

In Johannesburg, New Zealand captain Sean Fitzpatrick tried to mend old wounds when his squad arrived early Tuesday.

He called South Africa the ultimate tour for rugby and said playing the World Cup there added to the excitement, and also said he would be willing to meet South African lock Johan le Roux, who was "banned for biting Fitzpatrick's ear last year."



Abahani Krira Chakra's Russian coach makes a point to his boys during a practice session at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. The defending champions are scheduled to meet Brothers Union in the first semifinal of the Nirma DMFA Cup on Friday. — Star photo

## Ajax after Euro Cup now



LONDON, May 16: Ajax Amsterdam clinched the Dutch League title for the 25th time 10 days before they attempt to win the European Cup for the first time since 1973, reports Reuters.

The three times European Cup winners lifted their domestic title on the same weekend as Blackburn Rovers won the English League for the first time since 1914 and a week after Porto were crowned champions in Portugal.

Juventus and Real Madrid are poised to win their championships and book a place in next season's European Cup along with Nantes almost certain winners in France.

The race is tightest — now that it is over in England — in Germany where Werder Bremen lead Borussia Dortmund by one point with four games to go.

Ajax, who have scored 98 goals in 32 league matches and are unbeaten in the Dutch First Division, are assured a place in next season's Champions League whether or not they beat AC Milan in the May 24 final in Vienna.

For the last two games, the players have only been thinking of the (European) final, said Ajax coach Louis van Gaal.

"It's been a long tough season. We had 10 players on (1994) World Cup duty, but we're the only club in the last eight of the European Cup to

have retained our title in what the media call a Mickey Mouse league.

"But the champions of that league are the only club unbeaten in (10) European Cup games this season. That says something about the quality of Ajax."

Van Gaal recognises he faces a struggle to keep his winning squad intact, with reports already of interest from Italian and Spanish clubs in players like Finnish striker Jari Litmanen, winger Marc Overmars and midfielder Clarence Seedorf.

The greatest player of Ajax's 1970s side, Johan Cruyff, is having a torrid time trying to steer Barcelona, European champions in 1992 and Spanish League winners for the last four seasons, back on track.

Fans at Barcelona's giant Nou Camp Stadium for the poor 1-1 draw with Celta on Sunday held placards which read: "Cruyff, it's time for you to go." "Cruyff, put right all you've done wrong" and "Hristo yes, Johan no."

Cruyff dropped Bulgaria's European footballer-of-the-year Hristo Stoichkov for the match.

Real Madrid lost 3-2 at Oviedo, but they are six points clear of second-placed Deportivo Coruna, held 0-0 at Sevilla, with five games to go.

Juventus surged on towards their 23rd title with a 4-0 victory at Genoa.

European Cup holders AC

Milan continued their preparations for the final against Ajax with a 1-0 home win over AS Roma. Schemer, Dejan Savicevic and midfielder Marcel Desailly were rested.

The victory, with a goal by Gianluigi Lentini, fast returning to his best form, guarantees Milan a UEFA Cup spot next season should they lose to Ajax.

Coach Fabio Capello said: "Now I can concentrate on Vienna and our next game against Napoli will now just be a preparatory stage on the road to the final. From a psychological viewpoint, that is very important."

Milan play Napoli in Naples on Thursday in a game brought forward from Sunday.

Paris St Germain, having added the French Cup to the League Cup at the weekend, are already turning their attention to building a more powerful team for next season.

A major shake-up at the club is expected with African player-of-the-year George Weah likely to move to AC Milan and his striking partner David Ginola probably heading for Barcelona.

Some or all of the three Brazilian stars on PSG's books — Ricardo, Valdo and Rai — may also be on the move.

But club president Michel Denisot ruled out any thoughts of buying Stoichkov, who was on the brink of signing for PSG two years ago but finally turned the offer down. "It's my rule never to go back to player who has said 'No'.



Blackburn Rovers manager Kenny Dalglish and his daughter Lauren celebrating their team's English Premiership league title victory for the first time in 81 year on May 15. It was a double delight for Dalglish, who was also voted the manager-of-the-year. — AFP/UNB photo

## Parma, Juve renew rivalry



ROME, May 16: If Parma win Wednesday's UEFA Cup final in Milan against fellow Italians Juventus,

their inspirational forward Gianfranco Zola will dedicate victory to kidnap victim Giuseppe Vignè, reports Reuters.

"If the game at the San Siro goes our way then I'll dedicate the Cup to Giuseppe Vignè, a friend with whom I did my military service," he told reporters.

Speaking last Sunday, the day Giovanna Maria Licheri became the latest Sardinian kidnap victim, Sardinian-born Zola added: "I find the news of yet another kidnapping today... really shocking."

Vignè, a 32-year-old businessman, was kidnapped last December and is believed to be in Sardinian hands.

Zola and his Parma teammates have every chance of achieving UEFA Cup victory as they take a one-goal lead into the second leg of the final courtesy of Dino Baggio.

Zola and Colombian Faustino Asprilla provide fire-power up front, having scored 26 league goals between them this season.

Parma and Juventus meet in another crucial clash on Sunday when the outcome of the Italian League Championship could well be decided.

Juventus are tantalisingly close to winning that title. The Turin club have a seven-point lead over second-placed Parma with just three games to play.

Juventus striker Gianluca Vialli believes his side will be under less pressure on Wednesday.

"At the San Siro we'll start

at level since they have a goal advantage but we'll have 70,000 fans on our side," he said.

"Psychologically, though, we have the upper hand because this is the game of the season for them, while we have the insurance policy of a league title practically won."

His remarks drew a quick response from Parma goalkeeper Luca Bucci. "Vialli is an old fox who is just saying that to frighten us," he said. "Everybody wants to win... and as far as I'm concerned I still believe we can win the league title too."

Both sides will be without important players. Juventus are deprived of German defender Juergen Kohler and midfielder Antonio Conte, both injured, and midfielders Alessio Tacchinardi and Frenchman Didier Deschamps who are serving one-match bans.

## Passos powers Santos

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 16: Santos midfielder Marcelo Passos scored a hat-trick in seven minutes as his team beat crisis-torn Palmeiras 3-1 in the Sao Paulo Championship on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Passos was on target in the 50th, 52nd and 57th minutes. Palmeiras, who have dominated Brazilian football for the last two years but are six games without a win in the championship, controlled the first half but were kept at bay by a string of fine saves by Edinho, Pele's goalkeeping son.

Parma miss Argentine utility man Nestor Sensini, defender Luigi Apolloni and midfielder Gabriele Pin, who are suspended, while outstanding Swedish midfielder Tomas Brodin is not considered fit enough for such a tough assignment.

Kohler, Conte and Deschamps will be replaced by Ciro Ferrara, Croat Roberto Jarni and Giancarlo Marocchi.

First-choice goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi returns after missing the first leg through injury.

Parma coach Nevio Sealo gambles on inexperienced 20-year-old Stefano Fiore to replace Sensini, while Massimo Susic takes over from Apolloni and seasoned battler Massimo Crippa returns to midfield following suspension.

Wednesday's game, the Juventus "home" leg, is being played at Milan's San Siro Stadium rather than Turin's stadio Delle Alpi because of disagreement between Juventus and the Turin stadium administrators about ground advertising revenue.

Despite playing away from their hometown, Juventus are expected to attract a full house of more than 82,000.

### PROBABLE TEAMS:

**JUVENTUS:** Angelo Peruzzi, Moreno Torricelli, Roberto Jarni, Massimo Carrera, Ciro Ferrara, Paulo Sousa, Angelo di Livio, Giancarlo Marocchi, Gianluca Vialli, Roberto Baggio, Fabrizio Ravanello.  
**PARMA:** Luca Bucci, Antonio Benarrivo, Alberto di Chiara, Lorenzo Minotti, Massimo Susic, Fernando Couto, Stefano Fiore, Dino Baggio, Massimo Crippa, Gianfranco Zola, Faustino Asprilla.