

Warwickshire shatter Derby's dream

LONDON, Sept 15: Defending champions Warwickshire ended Derbyshire's dream of a first county championship in 60 years on Saturday with an unexpected four-wicket victory at Derby, reports Reuter.

Derbyshire are now 25 points behind the leaders Leicestershire and can not overtake their Midlands' rivals in the final game of the season.

Warwickshire, chasing 267 to win on the third day of their four-day match, slipped to 84 for five before Derbyshire's front line bowlers, minus the injured Dominic Cork, began to tire.

Trevor Penny, who finished unbeaten on 83, marshalled the lower order superbly and he was ably assisted by Ashley Giles (67 not out) who scored his fourth championship century of the season.

Derbyshire's Australian captain Deon Jones paid tribute to his players afterwards.

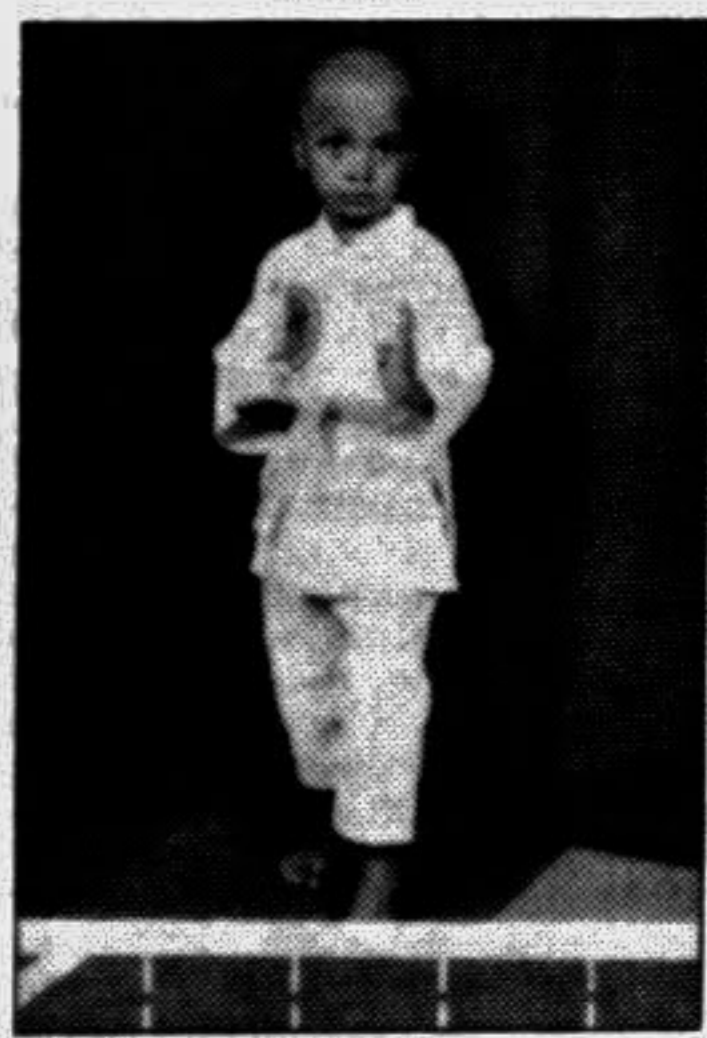
"I was so proud of the boys at the end," he said. "They walked off the pitch with their heads held high."

"There has been a lot of improvement and the team spirit has been brilliant."

Surrey's chances of a first championship since 1971 were hampered by the smallest man in county cricket.

Tony Cottee, 1.6 metres high, struck 64 not out as Glamorgan took their second innings to 218 for three, 111 runs in front and in a position to set Surrey a stiff victory target.

Karate belt test



Reaz Ahmed, aged 4 years nine months, a student of Black Spider Kungfu Karate Organisation (affiliated by Judo & Karate Federation) passed a queue in a recently held karate belt test. He won yellow belt, says a press release.

Probably he is the first boy of his age to pass the test.

Nadal not for sale

BARCELONA, Sept 15: Barcelona will not loan or transfer Spanish international defender Miguel Nadal to English champions Manchester United, the club said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

"Nadal belongs to the first team and the club is not contemplating a transfer or loan of any kind," a club statement said.

Earlier both coach Bobby Robson and club vice-president Joan Gaspart voiced their opposition to the move.

"Nadal's staying, I don't want him to go, and we're not going to sell any players this season," said Robson. Gaspart called Nadal "untransferable".

On Friday Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said he had re-opened talks with Barcelona for Nadal.

Chairman Martin Edwards said money was no longer an issue.

"We understand Nadal wants to join us and something could happen soon," Edwards said. "We are simply awaiting a call from Spain to tell us we can proceed with the transfer."

Pak cricketer goes on trial

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Sept 15: An 18-year-old Pakistani cricketer will go on trial on Tuesday to face charges of raping a woman tourist at a hotel where his team was staying, reports Reuter.

Zeeshan Pervez, a member of Pakistan's under-19 team, which is now playing the West Indies in Barbados, has been freed on bail since his arrest on Sept 1 for the alleged incident.

Magistrate Martin Gayle ruled on Friday there was sufficient evidence for the case to go to trial, although he noted several inconsistencies in the prosecution's case.

A 36-year-old Jamaican national who has lived in Boston for the past 18 years alleged that Pervez entered her hotel room late on Aug 31.

The woman told police Pervez, who was also staying at the hotel while the cricket team played a four-day match in Jamaica, offered two of her three children his towels so they could go to the swimming pool.

The three children left their three-year-old sibling asleep in the room with Pervez and their mother. The children told police that when they returned 30 minutes later they found their mother on the telephone, crying and claiming she had been raped.

Prosecution witness Dr Herb Elliott told the court he examined the woman, and while he found evidence of sexual intercourse, there were no injuries.

Pervez claimed the couple had consensual sex.



These Bangladeshi fans certainly know what they want as the poster suggests "See you in World Cup" at the Killat Club ground in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — Star TV photo

Tribute of a nation



Cricket became the converging point of a nation often polarised by diverse affiliations as our boys lifted the Pepsi ACC Trophy with a comprehensive 108-run win over UAE in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

With a ticker-tape reception awaiting the heroes of the soil, scheduled to return home at 6 pm today with the ACC Trophy under the belts and a ticket to the 1997 Asia Cup as reward of their stupendous performance, the whole nation was caught in an unprecedented euphoria of joyous celebrations.

Those joining to felicitate the victorious Bangladeshi cricketers include the head of the state, the head of the government, different political and social organisations, let alone a kid who was proudly holding the red and green flag at the Killat Club ground to epitomise a poem of a success.

Agencies add: President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulated the Bangladesh team on their victory in the Asian Cricket Council Trophy championship.

In a message of congratulation Biswas said, "I am very much delighted to join with the people of the country on this great victory of our team in an international competition."

The President Biswas said their victory would bolster the spirit of our players and would go a long way to take the country into the real world of cricket. The President thanked the captain, members of the team, the officials and the coach for their relentless and coordinated efforts. He also appreciated the great encouragement from the cricket-loving people of Bangladesh and the fans abroad.

In her message the Prime Minister conveyed her heartfelt greetings to all players of the team, its manager and other officials.

"I myself and on behalf of

the people of the country extend heartfelt congratulations and greetings to the players and officials of the team. Undoubtedly, this victory is the greatest honour for our cricket," she said in the message addressed to team captain Akram Khan.

She said the team's skillful performance, with victories in all matches of the tournament on foreign soil, has enhanced the country's honour in the outside world.

victory in an international tournament will inspire the players in achieving further successes in world cricket.

State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader described this glorious victory as a gateway to world cricket. Quader expressed his sincere wishes for greater success in international competition.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Anwar Hossain

Congratulations & felicitations To the Bangladesh cricket team, the ACC champions!

The Daily Star

The ruling Bangladesh Awami League has felicitated the cricketers on their grandeur victory.

According to a press release, Abdul Mannan, MP, the acting president of Awami League and general secretary Zillur Rahman have congratulated all the players and officials of the team for their heroic performance against the powerful UAE side and hoped this success would continue in the coming days.

Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleeda Zia has congratulated the players.

In a statement, Begum Zia said the Bangladesh team's first

Manju, acting chairman and secretary general respectively of Jatiya Party urged the government to take steps for providing standard training, increasing efficiency and giving incentives to the players.

Former State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka, MP and convener of Dhaka city, BNP, said Bangladesh's success is the outcome of BNP government's sincere efforts for the development of the game.

Former chairman of BCCB ASM Mostafizur Rahman in a separate statement also congratulated the team.

Bordeaux ride on Papin

PARIS, Sept 15: Spurred by a rejuvenated Jean-Francois Papin, Bordeaux beat Lille 3-0 to move to the top of the French league on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Papin, a former European-footballer-of-the-year, scored with a fine header in the 76th minute, bringing his side one point clear of Paris St Germain, who travel to Cannes today.

Bordeaux, who like PSG are unbeaten in the league this season, are on 15 points.

It is the first time in more than five years that Bordeaux have taken the top spot and their renaissance coincides with Papin's.

Since the league resumed last month, the former Marseille marksman, who spent

who scored twice in Bastia's 3-1 victory away in Strasbourg.

Drobnjak has scored six goals since the start of the season.

The victory was all the more important for Bordeaux as other leading teams playing on Saturday night failed to win.

Lens, who were the early pacesetters in the league, again lost away at Guingamp 1-0 while champions Auxerre conceded a goalless draw at newly promoted Nancy.

Less than two years after winning an unexpected league title, Nantes are going through hard times. Unable to win a single match out of seven this season, the Canaries again lost at home to Metz and are now in 18th place.

Troubled Valencia gained their first Spanish league point of the season in a 1-1 draw with Zaragoza in Madrid but the match was overshadowed by a rash of bookings and a sending off.

Zaragoza came out strongly and took the lead through Xavier Aguado in the 11th minute. But they fell apart after the 27th minute departure of forward Santiago Aragon. He was sent off in unclear circumstances shortly after falling in the Valencia area.

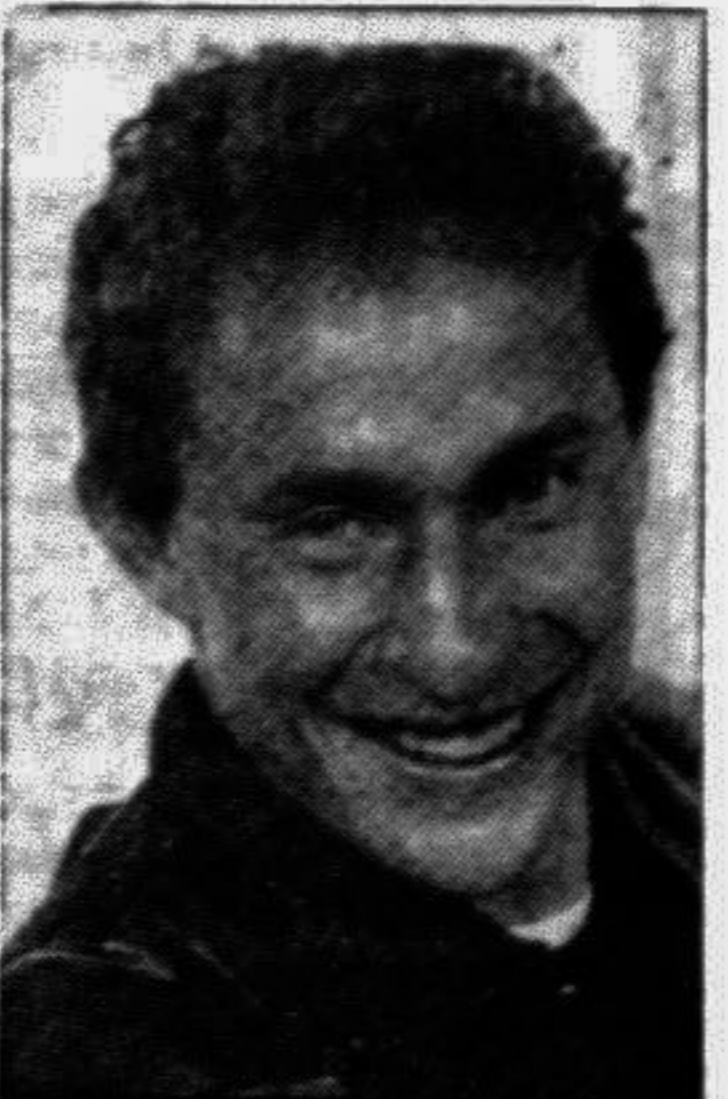
After the game Aragon denied insulting the referee for rejecting his penalty appeal.

The rest of the first half yielded six bookings, as the match official — who was making his First Division debut — seemed to lose control.

Valencia's Gabriel Moya put Valencia level just before the break after pouncing on a rebound from his own header.

After a brief lull in the second half, the spate of fouls continued, and several players were lucky to stay on the pitch. Valencia had the better of the play, but were unable to make the most of their numerical advantage.

They beat UEFA Cup holders Bayern Munich 3-0 on Tuesday, but had seen their match preparations disrupted by a new clash between coach Luis Aragones and Brazilian forward Romario, who has been dropped.



PAPIN

three disappointing seasons away from France with AC Milan and Bayern, has scored four goals.

He also set up Bordeaux's first goal against Lille, crossing for Didier Tholot, who scored just after the break. Tholot made it three in the dying minutes of the match.

But Papin, 32 who was France's top marksman three times in a row between 1988 and 1991 has a dangerous rival in Bastia's Anton Drobnjak,

Away in Bonn, Heiko Herrlich, out for six months with torn ankle ligaments, scored his third goal in two games as Dortmund foiled VfB Stuttgart's bid to top the German First Division.

Champions Dortmund trailed by a goal after 32 minutes when their goalkeeper Stefan Klos, under pressure from Giovane Elber, knocked the ball into his own net.

Herrlich equalised in the 66th minute to ensure the draw.

Bayern Munich, who drew 1-1 at Schalke, head the table by a point from Stuttgart.

Stuttgart defender Thomas Schneider was sent off in the 55th minute.

Dortmund trainer Ottmar Hitzfeld praised his side's second half performance.



Jubilant Team USA's Brett Hull upholds the World Cup of Hockey trophy in Montreal, Canada on Sept 14. USA beat Team Canada 5-2 to become champions. — AFP/UNB photo

Rain ruins Sahara Cup opener again

TORONTO, Sept 15: Canada's debut as an international cricket offshore venue was put off to Monday after showers left the ground unplayable Sunday, reports AP.

International Cricket Council match referee Gammie Smith of the West Indies and the three umpires concurred after two inspections of the wicket and ruled out play for the second consecutive day.

"The ground condition is not fit for play," Smith told The Associated Press. "The ground looks better than it did Friday, when we called off the game slated for Saturday, but it still needs to dry more to be fit for the match to begin."

The five-match, 10-day India-Pakistan series will make Canada the third off-shore venue to have hosted one-day internationals after the Emirate of Sharjah and Singapore.

The ground conditions permitting three matches will now be played on successive days Monday to Wednesday, Smith said. "We are doing away with the rest days between games."

"If there are no rains, we can still have five matches," Canadian Cricket Association vice president Ramesh Bhamhani said.

Maradona to seek medical advice

LONDON, Sept 15: Diego Maradona, who said two weeks ago he had played his last soccer game, will see medical advice next week about continuing his career, reports AP.

The 35-year-old Argentine, once regarded as the world's best soccer player, arrived in London Saturday on a flight from Madrid to give out awards Sunday at a junior soccer tournament.

Although he declined to speak with reporters, members of his entourage said he would go Monday to Alicante, Spain, for medical advice about his playing future.

The Argentine star, who completed a 10-day treatment programme for drug abuse last month in Switzerland, has been on a "semi-holiday" in recent weeks in Canada and the Caribbean.

Two weeks ago in Canada, he played what was billed as the last game of his career. He scored the winning goal in a game between his brother Lalo's Toronto-based Italia team and a team of all-stars from the seven-team Canadian National Soccer League.

Tyson entourage questioned

NEW YORK, Sept 15: Police questioned eight men — reportedly members of world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson's entourage — after they allegedly beat a Manhattan parking lot attendant for putting a scratch on the bumper of their luxury automobile, reports AP.

The victim, Mark Picapaul, suffered a bruised nose in the incident which occurred in the Greenwich Village section of New York City's borough of Manhattan, but refused to file charges, police said Saturday.

Before the incident at 3:30 am Friday, Tyson and his friends attended a midtown party thrown by designer Giorgio Armani for the opening of his new Madison Avenue boutiques, the New York Post reported Saturday.

Tyson arrived downtown in his limousine and the others drove in four cars, the Post said. The vehicles were parked in a lot near Cooper Square while the men had dinner at the nearby Bowery Bar.

When they returned, Tyson climbed into his limousine while his friends became angry waiting for their cars to be pulled out of the crowded lot, the Post said.

Noticing a scratch on a bumper of their BMW, the group blamed Pierrpaul, who offered them a complaint form to fill out, said police spokeswoman Kathleen Kelly. They instead attacked the attendant, Kelly said.

Shearer powers Newcastle



LONDON, Sept 15: Alan Shearer scored from a controversial penalty against his former club Blackburn on Saturday to set Newcastle on their way to a 2-1 victory which took them to third in the Premier league, reports Reuter.

The England striker, who left Blackburn last month for a world-record 15 million pounds (23.3 million dollars), smashed home his spot kick after Scotland defender Colin Hendry was harshly adjudged to have handled in the area on the stroke of half-time.

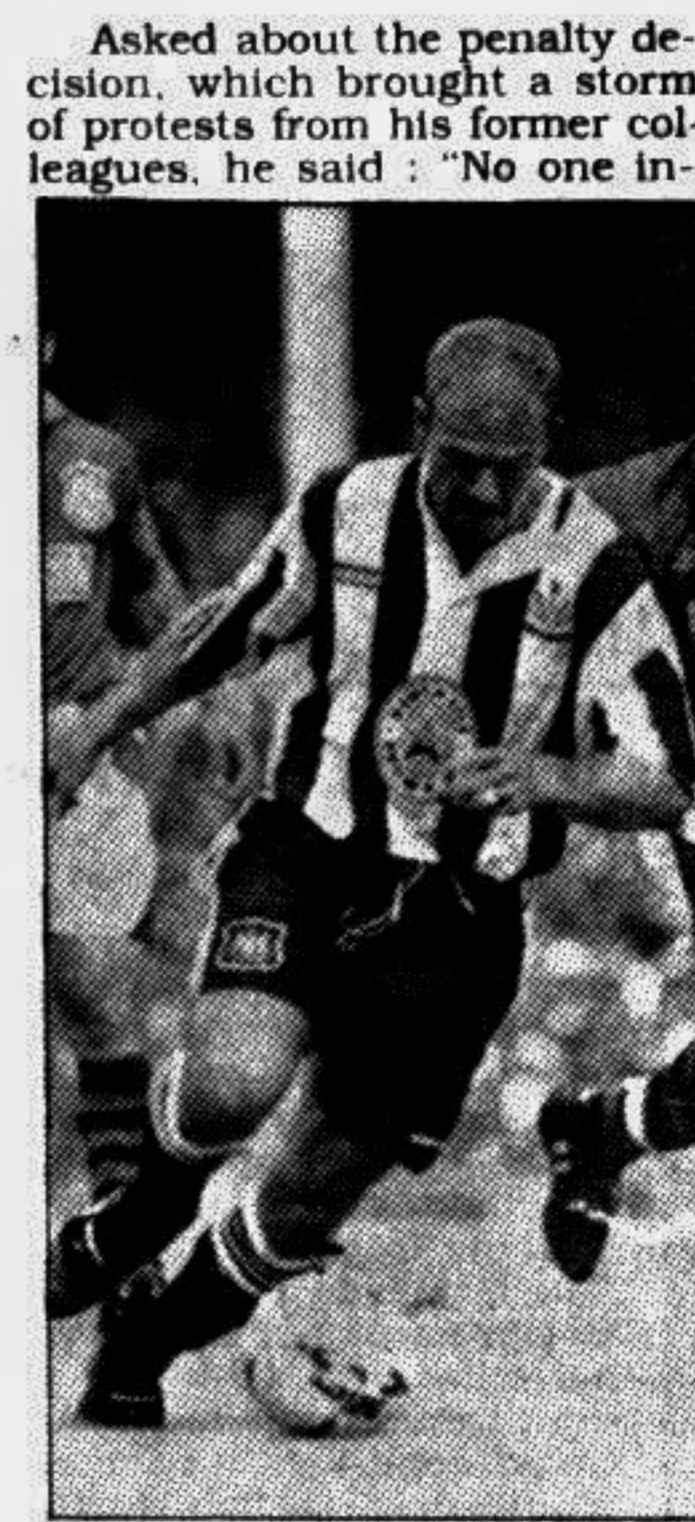
Les Ferdinand added his fourth goal in three league games after the break, and although Blackburn pulled one back through Shearer's former striking partner Chris Sutton five minutes from time, Kevin Keegan's side held on to win.

Newcastle are now level on points with top-of-the-table Manchester United, who came from behind to beat Nottingham Forest 4-1, and early pacesetters Sheffield Wednesday.

Wednesday can leapfrog back to the top on Monday when they face Arsenal, reeling from the resignation on Friday of caretaker manager Stewart Houston, and captain Tony Adams' admission on Saturday he is an alcoholic.

High-flyers Chelsea and Aston Villa meet each other today.

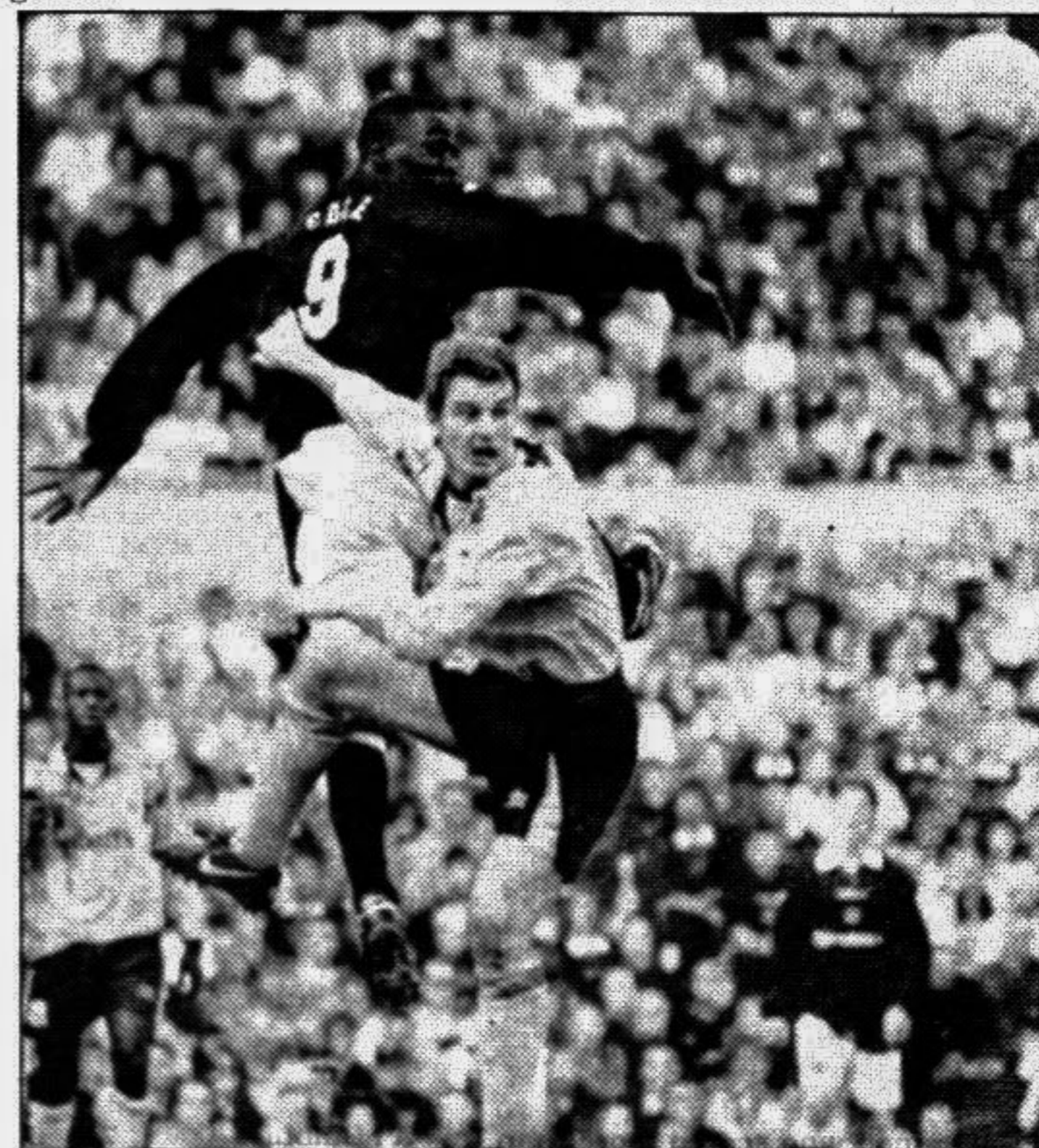
Shearer was un sentimental about a result which pushes 1995 champions Blackburn to the bottom of the league table with just one point from six games.



ALAN SHEARER tends to handle the ball in the box, but it hit (Hendry's) hand, and in my opinion if it hits your hand in the area it's a penalty.

Goalkeeper Tim Flowers, who has played with Shearer at Southampton, Blackburn and for England, guessed correctly, diving to his right and almost saved the kick.

"Tim phoned me last night and told me he'd know which



Substitute Andy Cole of Manchester United jumps to head the ball during their Premier league match against Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford on Sept 14. Manchester won 4-1. — AFP/UNB photo

Adams drops a bombshell

LONDON, Sept 15: Former England soccer captain Tony Adams admitted on Saturday he is an alcoholic, reports Reuter.

He told reporters: "I've been attending Alcoholics Anonymous. It's okay. I'm on the road to recovery."

The Arsenal defender added: "It's my way of life. I'm changing my life. I'd like the respect now from you — no. I want the respect from myself actually."

"I have a lot of things to do and a lot of things to work on myself and I am doing it."

Adams, 29, was talking as it emerged that he lapsed into his drink crisis after England's dramatic penalty shoot-out with Germany in Euro '96 in June.

According to a friend, the Arsenal centre-half had his first drink for more than four months in the hours after the national team went out of the tournament in a nail-biting finish to the match at Wembley.

Bitterly disappointed at coming so close to glory in what he feared would be his last major championship, he went for a "quiet drink" after the game.

But he continued drowning his sorrows into the night and

on the following day he was drinking again with friends.

The friends said: "He fought tremendously to stay on the straight and narrow. But after the disappointment of Germany he got home and all his problems just seemed to be magnified in the gloom of the defeat. It was breaking point."

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TONY ADAMS

It was the end of a period of abstinence which had started at the end of February and he was a noticeable absentee from the antics of some of the players on the tour to China and Hong Kong when a plane was damaged on the way home.

On the night several England players were pictured in a bar having tequila poured down their throats, Adams was in bed at the team hotel when coach Stewart Houston, who quit on Friday.

Adams told reporters at the club's training ground on Saturday that the turning point in his drink dependency had come when "I looked at myself in the mirror."

His problems included a breakdown in his marriage after his 30-year-old wife Jane received treatment for cocaine addiction.

For most of this year, the big centre half has been battling against injury. The only serious run of competitive games he has had was in Euro '96 and he has not played for Arsenal this season.

David Davies, director of public affairs at the Football Association, expressing deep concern, said: "Tony Adams can be assured of our total support in sorting out any problems he has."

"His role as England captain during Euro '96 has been widely and rightly recognised as considerable."

Adams' problems mirror the difficulties suffered by his Ar-

way to go if there was a penalty," Shearer said with a smile. "He did, but fortunately he didn't reach it."

Leeds defender Andy Couzens gave George Graham the perfect welcome back to soccer after 18 months in the wilderness, scoring in the opening minute against bottom-side Coventry.

Graham took over as manager of the Elland Road club this week — his first job since sacked as boss of London giants Arsenal in early 1995 for accepting illegal payments from transfer deals.

But Graham's return was soured in the second half as Coventry, bottom of the table before start of play, equalised through John Salako, and then scored the winner through former Leeds favourite Noel Whelan.

There was a touch of *deja vu* for Frenchman Eric Cantona at Old Trafford, where defending champions United recorded their first home win of the season.

For the second consecutive Saturday the midfielder scored United's fourth goal in the final minute of the match, and for the second consecutive Saturday he had a penalty to take.

That's where the similarities ended though.

Last week at Leeds, Cantona missed his spot kick before scoring from open play. This week, against Nottingham Forest, he found the net with a fierce drive from outside the box, then rounded off the win from the spot with seconds remaining.

Forest took an early lead through Norwegian international Alf-Inge Haaland, but saw it blown away by goals from Haaland's compatriot Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Ryan Giggs, and Cantona.

The result came as welcome relief for United, who scrambled 2-2 draws in their previous two home games, and lost 1-0 to Italy's Juventus in the European Champions' League in midweek.

United have not been beaten at Old Trafford now for 32 matches, since December 1994 when they lost to Forest.

Giggs' goal was the pick of United's four. A back heel from Cantona wrong-footed the Forest defence releasing Czech Karel Poborsky on the wing. His perfect cross was met by the Welshman with a thumping header.

Shearer and Cantona were not the day's only penalty scorers.

Chris Armstrong struck from the spot to give injury-hit Tottenham a 1-0 away win at Southampton, as did Croatia Aljosa Asanovic in Derby's 1-0 win over Sunderland.

England's Nicky Barnby and Brazil's Juninho scored in open play as Middlesbrough came from behind to beat Everton, and in the London derby, Wimbledon beat West Ham 2-0.

Liverpool play Leicester to-

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Lewis & Co Tokyo bound

TOKYO, Sept 15: Carl Lewis will be among 15 Olympic champions taking part in a star-studded finale to the athletics season here Monday, reports AFP.

The 35-year-old American will probably be taking part in his last 100m race in Japan, and it will be on the National Stadium track where he broke the world record at the 1991 World Championships with a run of 9.86 sec.

Lewis finished his Olympic career by taking a fourth straight long jump gold medal, and ninth Olympic title overall in Atlanta.

To get a victory this time, though, he will have to beat current Olympic champion Donovan Bailey of Canada, silver medalist Frankie Fredericks of Namibia and fellow American Dennis Mitchell.

Bailey set the current world record of 9.84 sec in the Olympic final, beating pre-race favourite Fredericks into second.