

## Juventus' distinction

ROME, May 24: Juventus clinched the 24th Italian league title in their 100-year history on Friday when they recovered from a goal down to draw 1-1 with Atalanta in Bergamo, reports Reuter.

Mark Iuliano's 54th minute equaliser, after Filippo Inzaghi's first-half opener for Atalanta had threatened to spoil the party, put Juventus beyond the reach of second placed Parma.

With 64 points from 33 matches, Juventus are seven points clear of Parma who have just two matches left to play.

Juve will now have the chance to achieve an historic double when they meet German's Borussia Dortmund in the European Cup final in Munich next Wednesday.

The match finished in farcical fashion when the referee was forced to suspend the match for 15 minutes after Juventus fans prematurely invaded the pitch thinking the game was over.

Police cleared the field and the two sides were brought back out from the changing rooms to play the remaining minutes, before the real celebrations could start.

## David deems it a booster

LONDON, May 24: England coach David Lloyd says his players must cast off their inferiority complexes if they are to have any chance of triumphing over the Australians in the forthcoming Ashes series, reports AFP.

"We are flipping great at self-doubt as a country, and there are a few things I am hell bent on changing," said Lloyd after England's final preparations for the two one-day internationals at the Oval and Lords this weekend.

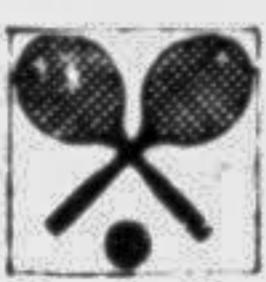
Lloyd had fulsome praise for the dogged performances of Adam Hollioake, Graham Thorpe and Robert Croft, England's stars in Thursday's exciting six-wicket victory against Australia in the first one-dayer at Headingley.

But the England coach wants to see Thursday's success to be the start of a long, triumphant summer which he believes can only be achieved with the right mental outlook.

Lloyd explained: "We were undefeated in Test matches during the winter and our A-team and under 19s both had great tours too."

"Last summer we beat India twice, in Tests and one-dayers, and we beat a very good Pakistan side in the one-day game. But the man in the street still says that we are in for a tough time this summer against Australia."

## Steffi's sweet revenge



STRASBOURG, France, May 24: Steffi Graf, still struggling with her game, beat Amanda Coetzer for the first time this year, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7-4) in the semifinals of the Strasbourg Open Friday report agencies.

Coetzer routed Graf, 6-0, 6-1, a week ago in the German Open, the worst loss of the German's career. Coetzer also won at the Australian Open.

Graf will face 15-year-old Marjana Lucic in the final. Lucic outlasted fourth-seeded Judith Wiesner, 7-5, 6-2 (8-10), 7-6 (7-5) in the other semifinal.

Graf missed a match point in the third set at 5-4 and Coetzer forced the match into a tiebreak.

"In the third set I was really concentrating on every point," Graf said. "It was a test of wills. In Berlin, that was not really a normal match for me."

Graf held on to gain the win after losing the first set and sitting out a rain delay of about an hour at 4-3 in the second.

It will be Graf's first final since last February when she had to default from the Tokyo final against Martina Hingis.

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