

The playmaker

LONDON, Sept 20 (Reuters/Internet): Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone told a British Sunday newspaper he was involved with plans to set up a European soccer Super league.

The Sunday Mirror said Ecclestone, a multi-millionaire and chairman of the Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA), had provided finance for the Italian group Media Partners which wants to set up a Super League.

"Yes, I am involved but only a little bit at the moment," Ecclestone was quoted as saying. "I do not know what my involvement will be in the future but for now my interest is getting this whole thing off the deck."

"I think a Super League is a great idea. I don't know much about football, at least not as much as I know about motor racing, but I do think this is necessary and I do think it will work."

The 67-year-old British businessman added: "The whole game is fragmented at the moment. There are lots and lots of different championships and leagues. This is something that would satisfy everybody. I like good ideas and this is a good one."

Ecclestone has turned Formula One motor racing into a multi-million-dollar global business. He is vice-president for commercial affairs for the International Motor Federation (FIA) and holds the commercial and television rights for Formula One world championship events.



Liverpool's speedy striker Michael Owen (L) goes on one of his familiar runs during the Premiership encounter against Charlton Athletic at Anfield on Sept 19. Liverpool drew 3-3. — AP/UNB photo

Gullit's men on a goal rush

LONDON, Sept 19 (Reuters/Internet): Dutchman Ruud Gullit came to Newcastle United promising plenty of "sexy football" and for the second week running his players turned on the style by thrashing Coventry City 5-1 away on Saturday.

England captain Alan Shearer scored twice, to add to the couple he hit in a 4-0 home win over Southampton last Saturday, as the Magpies continued their return to form since Gullit replaced former manager Kenny Dalglish in late August.

The result lifted Newcastle's points tally to eight from six games, six points behind leaders Aston Villa, who drew 0-0 at Leeds United. Liverpool slipped to third on 11 points after a 3-3 draw with Charlton at Anfield where Robbie Fowler marked his return from injury.

with two goals for the home side.

Coventry actually went in front against Newcastle from a Noel Whelan header after four minutes but were never in the match after that. Greek defender Nikos Dabizas headed Newcastle level after 14 minutes and Shearer, with a low shot, and Gary Speed, with a header, made it 3-1 at the interval. Stephen Glass ran through to make it 4-1 after 58 minutes and Shearer completed another consummate performance with the fifth from a corner in the final minute.

Julian Joachim should have won the game for Villa at Leeds late on but he shot wide when given a clear sight of goal by Robert Molenaar's mistake. But Fowler showed he had lost none of his scoring touch with his two goals on his return after a seven-month injury lay-off.

Charlton led 1-0 and 2-1 before Steve Jones' late volley grabbed them a point. Patrick Berger scored Liverpool's other goal.

Derby County are second on 12 points after a 2-0 home win over near neighbours Leicester City.

Derby, who went 4-0 down in the first 15 minutes of the corresponding fixture last season, scored through Stefan Schnoor (34) and gangly Costa Rican Paulo Wanchope (51).

Wimbledon moved to fourth after a 2-1 home win over Sheffield Wednesday while Middlesbrough drew 2-2 with Everton.

Nottingham Forest were held 0-0 at home by West Ham and bottom club Southampton picked up their first point in a 1-1 home draw with Tottenham.

Champions Arsenal play host to Manchester United on Sunday.

Reds remain red hot

TOKYO, Sept 20 (Reuters/Internet): Urawa Reds posted another victory on Saturday night as they remained undefeated in the J-league with a 3-0 win over Yokohama Fluegel.

Kenji Oshiba and Masahiro Fukuda paced Reds to their sixth straight win.

Nagoya Grampus Eight blanked JEF United Ichihara 3-0 to remain three points behind Reds in the J-League second-stage standings. International midfielder Takashi Hirano and Dutch star Tarik Oulida scored with an own goal making it three.

Jubilo Iwata, which stumbled at the start of the second stage after winning the first stage, beat Verdy Kawasaki 1-0 on a goal from Toshiya Fujita in the 63rd minute.

Jubilo, with 12 points, has moved into the top third of the standings.

Yokohama Marinos dropped down the standings' board with a 3-2 loss to Cerezo Osaka. Brazilian midfielder Pintado scored the game winner in the 82nd minute.

Hristo Stoichkov scored an early goal for Kashima Reysol but Avispa Fukuoka evened the game and eventually won 2-1 on an extra-time goal by forward Yoshiteru Yamashita.

Sanfrecce Hiroshima beat Gamba Osaka 2-0 while Bellmare Hiratsuka slipped by Visel Kobe 1-0 on first-half goal from Ricardinho.

In other action, Kashima Antlers beat Consadole Sapporo 3-2 while Shimizu S-Pulse edged lowly Kyoto Purple Sanga 3-2.

Bitter rivals split points

MADRID, Sept 19 (Reuters/Internet): Real Madrid and Barcelona drew 2-2 in their Spanish league clash at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Saturday after Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson scored a late equaliser for the Catalans.

Champions Barcelona, who last year dealt the European Cup holders a humiliating 3-2 defeat in Madrid, looked second best for much of the night but grabbed a precious point after Anderson caught Real napping seven minutes from time.

Raul Gonzalez had put the home side ahead after just four minutes thanks to fellow Spanish international striker Fernando Morientes who weaved his way through the Barcelona defence and passed to his team mate. But eight minutes later Dutch international Patrick Kluyvert got Barcelona back on level terms with his first Spanish league goal since he joined from Italy's AC Milan. He was on hand to slot the ball home after Real goalkeeper Bodo Illgner parried a Rivaldo free kick.

The goal maintained Kluyvert's record of having scored on each of the three occasions he has visited the Bernabeu, the previous two being during the years when he was an Ajax Amsterdam player.

Raul put the home side back in front again with his second goal after 25 minutes, chipping the ball in from the edge of the area over the head of Barcelona goalkeeper Ruud Hesp.

Both sides faltered after the break with the match becoming more tense and the hard tackles more obvious.

Ten yellow cards were shown and several Barcelona players were lucky not to have been sent off as the visitors committed three times as many fouls as their hosts.

Anderson came on late in the second half and squared the match five minutes later, latching onto a long ball forward when the Real Madrid defence and midfield were clearly thinking that they had the three points secure.

"The result certainly wasn't a fair reflection of how the game went," Real Madrid captain Manuel Sanchis said.

"We had this game won and the only consolation I can take is that we are still unbeaten and have started the season well."

Barcelona coach Louis van Gaal disagreed. "I actually thought we deserved a draw. This was an easier game to play in than against Manchester United in the Champions' League (with whom Barcelona drew 3-3 on Wednesday)," he said.

"Real Madrid were a different team in the second half from the first and their confidence seemed to drain from them the longer the game went on."

Barcelona are also unbeaten after three games, with a win and two draws to their name.

Spanish federation officials, already concerned about the impact of foreign players in top league soccer, will have seen little to ease their fears. Barcelona had just two Spaniards among the 14 players they used on Saturday night.

Women's hockey Gold goes to Australia

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20: Australia's Nikki Mott scored twice in an 8-1 field hockey victory over England for a Commonwealth Games gold medal Sunday, reports AP.

Mott produced her best when it mattered most as Australia took the first goal ever for field hockey, a sport new to the Commonwealth Games.

Prolific goal scorer Alyson Annan scored one, as did Katrina Powell, captain Rechelle Hawkes, Kristen Towers, Juliet Haslam and Michelle Andrews.

Australia started slowly against a tenacious England side that failed to capitalise on an overall dominance in the opening 15 minutes.

Then, sparked by Annan, Australia exploded with two goals in five minutes to gain an advantage it never relinquished. The Olympic champion led 3-0 at halftime and scored two more shortly after the break to clinch the match.

New Zealand defeated India 3-0 to take the bronze medal.

Muktis face Punjab Electric today

Dhaka Premier league champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad will take on Punjab Electric Board in their final last Group A match today in the Assam Independence Cup, reports APB.

The match will kick-off in the afternoon at Naogaon Stadium.

Muktiyoddha need only a draw to confirm their semifinal berth in the invitational meet as they won their first match 3-0 against Assam Police on Saturday.

McGrath can tour Pakistan

SYDNEY, Sept 20: Australia's leading fast bowler Glenn McGrath is ready to take his place in the cricket team to tour Pakistan after passing a final fitness test Sunday, reports AP.

McGrath, who missed the Commonwealth Games because of a slight strain to his right groin muscle, successfully bowled 10 overs for New South Wales in their 63-run loss to Sydney in the annual Place Of Origin one-day match at Howell Oval.

The 28-year-old finished with 39-0 over three spells.

Campas keeps IBF title

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Sept 20: Yory Boy Campas of Mexico retained his International Boxing Federation junior middleweight title here Friday, stopping challenger Larry Barnes after three rounds, reports APB.

Mom does 'em proud

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (AP/Internet): Australia's Heather Turland, watched by her husband, four of her five children and her parents, won the women's marathon here on Sunday.

Turland, whose triumph gave Australia its third win in four women's marathons at the Games, won in a time of 2:41:24 with another Australian, Lisa Dick, in second and Elizabeth Mongudhi of Namibia third.

The 38-year-old Turland, who broke her leg in January when a car ran her over outside the Colosseum in Rome, took the lead off Mongudhi at the 35km mark.

Turland, who only took up running two years ago, went into a clear lead and although Dick, who only competed in her first marathon earlier this year, put in a strong run at the end, passing the struggling Mongudhi, the gap was too much between herself and Turland to make up.

England's 43-year-old Gillian Horowitz, whose son, Adam, is a member of the rock group the Beastie Boys, ran a sterling race to finish fourth.

Jarrett hits the jackpot

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (AP/Reuters): Hurdler Tony Jarrett, for so long used to finishing second or worse in major championships, finally made it to gold Sunday when he triumphed in the 110-metre hurdles at the Commonwealth Games.

A two-time silver and also bronze medalist at the World Championships, runner-up twice at the last two Commonwealths and fourth-place finisher at the Barcelona Olympics, the 30-year-old Englishman edged Trinidad's Steve Brown by .01 to clock 13.47 in the final.

On a good day for England away from the track too, boxer Audley Harrison won the super-heavyweight gold with a first-round knockout for the team's fourth title in 12 finals, and two more golds came on the shooting range.

Without a gold or silver in the boxing arena, Australia, meanwhile, remained rampant elsewhere, winning both men's and women's hockey finals as well as two track gold medals.

The men's hockey team silenced the home fans with a 4-0 victory over Malaysia and the women crushed England 8-1. Jarrett's long overdue victory was one of six finals in the

tained her country's amazing record on the track by winning the 10,000 metres, adding her gold to the Kenyan triumphs in the men's 800, 5,000, 10,000 metres and 3,000 steeplechase.

New Zealand's world champion Beatrice Faumina, who was Commonwealth runner-up four years ago, heaved a Games record 65.92 to win the women's

round knockout of Michael Macque of Mauritius was the highlight of England's four-gold performance in the boxing finals.

The powerfully built super-heavyweight unleashed a straight left that jerked Macque's head backward and his opponent crashed to the floor. The referee didn't finish the count but called to the ringside doctors to make sure he was all right.

Courtney Fry upset Olympic quarterfinalist Troy Amos Ross of Canada 26-21 on points in the light-heavyweight division. John Pearce outclassed India's Jitender Kumar 25-15 at midweight and Chris Bessey scored a 20-15 victory over Canada's Scott MacIntosh at light middleweight.

Canada won three gold medals, defending titlist Michael Strange downing Gerry Legras of the Seychelles 16-8 at light welterweight and Jeremy Molitor scoring a 14-9 verdict over Kenya's Absolom Okoth at welterweight.

The heavyweight Mark Simmons outpunched Roland Raforne of the Seychelles 21-13.

The Kenyans, who two golds four years ago in Victoria, went home without a medal after a disappointing performance

discus and South Africa's Riaan Botha also claimed a Games mark of 5.60 to win the men's pole vault.

The men's long jump and



Tony Jarrett (R) crosses the finish line ahead of the pack during the final of the 110 metres hurdles at the Commonwealth Games yesterday. — AFP photo



Australian Peter Burge (left) and Jai Taurima (right) both leaped 8.22 metres and Burge was awarded the gold because of a better next best jump.

stadium Sunday evening after the marathon races in the early morning.

A 38-year-old mother of four who only started running in her early 30s, Heather Turland surprised herself by winning the marathon.

She now looks forward to running for Australia at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, when she will be 40.

In the men's race on the same course, Thabiso Mqholi, pulled away in the final four miles (6.4 kilometers) to win Lesotho's first medal at any major championships. Two Tanzanians, Simon Bisiligitwa and Andea Sija, completed an African sweep of the medals.

Kenya's Ester Wanjiru maintained her country's amazing record on the track by winning the 10,000 metres, adding her gold to the Kenyan triumphs in the men's 800, 5,000, 10,000 metres and 3,000 steeplechase.

Champions stoop to Lyon

PARIS, Sept 19 (Reuters/Internet): Olympique Lyon beat defending champions RC Lens 3-1 at home on Saturday to confirm their status as French league championship contenders.

Lyon, whose strike pair of Marco Grassi and Alain Cavaglia each scored his fourth goal of the season in the first half, are in second place on 14 points, one behind leaders Girondins Bordeaux. Bordeaux play on Sunday away to Olympique Marseille, who are on 11 points with 1997 champions Monaco, who travel to meet Paris St Germain.

It was the first time in six seasons that Lyon have beaten Lens at their Gerland World Cup ground. Lens won there 3-1 last season on their way to their first league title.

Lyon had 24 hours more to recover from their European midweek game, having beaten Blackburn Rovers 1-0 away in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday, whereas Lens made their European Cup debut with a 1-1 draw at home to Arsenal on Wednesday.

Swiss international Grassi and Lyon captain Cavaglia have both scored four goals in six games, usually prompted by Lyon's Mauritius-born playmaker Vikash Dhoraso, signed from Le Havre in the off-season.

Dhoraso sent a fine cross-field ball out of the Lyon half in the 12th minute, finding Cavaglia on the left wing where the striker stepped inside a defender to cross for Grassi to drive a low shot past diving Lens goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz.

On the half hour, Cavaglia took a pass forward from Dhoraso and lobbed the ball over Warmuz who was well outside his goal.

Lens pulled a goal back through wing Wagneau Eloi in the 75th minute. Eloi's low shot

from their 10 fighters.

English shooters also collected golds on the range at Langkawi Island.

Michael Gault collected his fourth gold medal to go with his title at the Games at Victoria four years ago by winning the men's air pistol.

In the velodrome, New Zealand's Glen Thomson won the 40-kilometre points race. Alayna Barr of Australia won the women's equivalent and the Australians triumphed in the 4-kilometre team pursuit.

Canada won both titles in the diving pool. Alexandre Despatie taking gold in the men's platform and Eryn Bulmer finishing top in the women's 3-metre springboard.

from well out on the right deceived Gregory Coupet, who thought the winger was going to cross.

France's Tony Vairelles, and the Lyon goalkeeper spilled the ball over his line.

Coupet, who otherwise had a good game, parried a powerful drive from the speedy Eloi three minutes later as the champions threatened to snatch a point.

But two minutes from time Lyon made sure of victory when substitute Joseph-Desire Job latched onto the ball on the left wing when Lens captain Frederic Dehu's header back to Warmuz, waiting near the edge of the box, was short.

Job put the ball one side of the goalkeeper and ran past him on the other to recover it and shot it in an empty net.

It was the third defeat in six matches for Lens, who have made a disappointing start to the season. They are ninth eight points adrift of the leaders.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

A DIFFICULT CONTRACT WAS MADE DUE TO AN ERROR BY DEFENCE (Hand # 99)

Hand # 99. North: S 9XX, H A Q J, D Q, C J87XXX. South (D): S J 107X, H 9XX, D K8XX, C KX. West: S A Q X, H 1076X, D A J, C A Q 9 8. East: S K 8 6, H K 8 X, D 10976XX, C 10.

Bidding: Neither side was vulnerable.

Summary table: South (Saved) 5 Diamonds, West (Mushfiq) 1 Diamond, North (Sheila) 2 No Trumps, East (Tora) 3 Diamonds.

* Artificial, ** Artificial, showing 0-6 HCP.

Mushfiq opened 1 Diamond holding 17 High Card Points (HCP) but partner disappointed by showing 0-6 HCP. (It was a rubber bridge). However, West wanted to show the maximum for 1 Diamond by bidding 2 No Trumps in the hope that partner would show her five cards. When Tora came out with a Diamond bid West booked game in No Trump. East did not like to play No Trump with a singleton Club and thought it wise to play for a part-game in 4 Diamonds. West desperately tried a 4-4 fit in Hearts but North doubled. As East was out of her breath, she passed 4 Hearts doubled, but West retreated to 5 Diamonds.

THE PLAY

North led a small Spade which was won in the dummy with the King. The declarer immediately took the successful Club finesse. Next he played the Ace of Diamond bringing down the Queen from the North hand. From North's double of 4 Hearts the declarer assumed that the Ace of Hearts was with the North. The declarer then played the Jack of Diamonds which was ducked by South. This was a good defence by South as on winning the trick, he did not have a suitable return. The declarer then played a small Heart. North erred by taking the Ace. She played back a Heart which was won with the King in the dummy. The declarer entered his hand with the Queen of Spades. Next he played the Ace of Clubs on which a small Heart was stopped. The Ace of Spades was cashed and the dummy was entered by ruffing a Heart. Next the declarer played the Ten of Diamonds which was taken by South with the King. That was the last trick for the defence. Five Diamonds were made as the defence got a Heart and a Diamond trick. Note that North could beat the hand by ducking the first Heart as in that case by preserving the entry to her Heart Ace she could give a Club ruff to the partner in addition to the good Diamond trick.



Heather Turland (C), winner of the Commonwealth Games marathon gold, poses with fellow Australian Lisa Dick (L), who won the silver and Elizabeth Mongudhi of Namibia yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword clues (ACROSS, DOWN) and a grid. Solution time: 26 min. Cryptogram: A W H W L B T D Q E P Z P Q E S W Z Y Z S G P F L H B T P B F Y B G P J P S N Y A N D F T B H Y P G D J H.