

Di Canio set for misconduct charge on Monday

LONDON, Sept 27 (Reuters/Internet): Sheffield Wednesday's Paolo Di Canio is set to be charged with misconduct by the English Football Association (FA) on Monday following Saturday's incident at Hillsborough when he shoved a referee to the ground.

The likelihood is there will be a charge of misconduct as soon as we have the reports in first thing on Monday morning," FA chief executive Graham Kelly told BBC radio on Sunday. "Normally the referee would fax the report to us on Sunday and a charge would be issued tomorrow."

Di Canio left English football and referee Paul Alcock reeling on Saturday when he reacted furiously to being sent off in the premier league match against Arsenal by showing the match official in the chest, causing him to fall to the ground.

His club suspended the 30-year-old Italian after the match, which Wednesday won 1-0, and seems sure to incur a lengthy ban and a heavy fine.

"The rules in the FA book are wide and fairly well known," said Kelly when asked how severe a sanction Di Canio was likely to face.

Juve, Milan brought down to earth



PARMA, Italy, Sept 27. Former Juventus player Dino Baggio returned to haunt his old club on Saturday, helping Parma hand the Italian champions their first league defeat of the season at a rain-swept Tardini Stadium, reports Reuters.

The Italy midfielder, who has now scored four goals against the club he left acrimoniously in 1994, sidefooted home the only goal of the match from the six-yard box in the 47th minute, after Enrico Chiesa's freekick evaded the entire Juve defence.

Victory, which leaves Parma four points adrift of leaders Fiorentina in seventh place, relieves the pressure on new coach Alberto Malesani, after his expensive side had managed just two scoreless draws in a disappointing start to the season.

After the final whistle, Malesani walked across the sodden pitch amid rumbles of thunder to embrace his French defender Lilian Thuram and salute the roars of the home supporters.

"It's important that we grow bit by bit to become a great team," said the coach, close to tears after the match. "It's important to learn to win like Juventus."

Del Piero and Inzaghi. The change momentarily added bite to Juve's otherwise toothless attack and in the 68th minute, Tacchinardi evaded two challenges before forcing Buffon to turn his chip onto the bar.

Two minutes later, Fonseca sought a penalty when he pushed the ball past Buffon and artfully crashed into the keeper.

In the closing minutes, it was the home side who threat-

pulling one back with a 69th minute penalty — but it was Batistuta's day.

The Argentine, taking advantage of a naive error by veteran Italy defender Alessandro Costacurta, set the tone in the sixth minute with a diagonal blast past goalkeeper Jens Lehmann.

Milan went on the attack for the rest of the half but created no real scoring chances against Fiorentina, coached by defensive-minded Giovanni Trapat-



Fiorentina's Argentine superstriker Gabriel Batistuta is exultant after grabbing a hat-trick against AC Milan in their Serie A encounter at the San Siro on Saturday.

In truth, without their injured French playmaker Zinedine Zidane and with Alessandro Del Piero badly out of form, Juventus looked a shadow of their championship-winning selves and rarely appeared likely to preserve their own 100 per cent record.

Midfielder Alessio Tacchinardi came closest to grabbing an equaliser when his second-half shot was tipped on to the bar by Parma's superb young goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

Without a goal to show for Parma's first two league games, Malesani was finally able to deploy his preferred strike force: Italy striker Enrico Chiesa and Hernan Crespo of Argentina, both previously injured.

Instead, in the seventh minute, it was another Argentine Juan Veron who had Parma's first shot, a 30-metre drive that had Angelo Peruzzi scrambling across his goal.

It was the 18th minute before the champions threatened, Del Piero's cross beating the defence, but bouncing just too high for former Parma striker Filippo Inzaghi.

Three minutes later, however, Buffon needed to be at his best to keep out a curling shot from Inzaghi.

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The win put Fiorentina at the top of the Serie A table.

Udinese and AS Roma, with 2-0 wins against Salernitana and Venezia respectively, moved into joint second-place with seven points. Udinese's Brazilian Amoroso and Roma's Marco Delvecchio each scored two goals.

Batistuta, who scored early on and twice just after the interval, was the clear-cut winner of what had been billed a personal duel with Milan's Oliver Bierhoff — last year's top scorer in Serie A.

Bierhoff, who risked not playing due to a sore ankle, fought hard all day and came close twice before finally

ened on the counter-attack with Peruzzi twice whistled Juve.

The crowd whistled as the fourth referee signalled five minutes of stoppage time but, with Italy's Fabio Cannavaro and Thuram commanding in central defence, Parma held on to earn the ultimate tribute from Juventus coach Marcello Lippi.

"They (Parma) are an excellent side, at the same level of Juventus," he said afterwards.

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Vivian Johnson, sister of Florence Griffith Joyner, holds a portrait of the deceased after the funeral services in Lake Forest, California on September 26.

England needed injections?

LONDON, Sept 27 (Reuters/Internet): Manchester United have written to the English Football Association (FA) demanding details of energy-boosting injections given to England players at the World Cup in France, a British newspaper said on Sunday.

The Express on Sunday said United manager Alex Ferguson was concerned at the after-effects of the injections on several of his players who were in the England squad.

French doctor Yann Rougier supplied the England squad with a programme of energy supplements at France '98 including the amino acid creatine, the paper said.

One United player in the England squad, Gary Neville, wrote in his book "For Club and Country" published this month that he had received injections from Rougier on the eve of the World Cup on June 10.

"I went to Doctor Rougier for some treatment and told him that my legs felt very tired. He gave me an injection in my arm and told me I would feel fine in three days," Neville wrote.

The FA were not available for comment on Sunday but spokesman Steve Double told The Express on Sunday: "For the (England) games against Colombia and Argentina the players were given booster injections three hours before kick-off."

"We cannot confirm exactly what was given as the records are with Dr Rougier in France... As for the letter from Manchester United, that is being dealt with and a full explanation will be given to the club and Alex Ferguson if that is what is required."

Rougier also defended his methods, saying: "It is all natural and approved by the International Olympic Committee."

The use of creatine, which is not a banned substance, was at the centre of a recent investigation into doping in Italian football.

Teddy Sheringham, Paul Scholes and David Beckham were the other United players in Glenn Hoddle's England squad.

Funeral of Flo-Jo held

LAKE FOREST, Calif. Sept 27 (AFP/Reuters): Florence Griffith Joyner's joy in competition and in life were celebrated here Saturday at a funeral service for the world record-holding sprinter who died on Monday.

Family and friends recalled with affection the flamboyant fingernails and fashion statements that caught the attention of Flo-Jo's fans worldwide.

"She also remembered a warm-hearted, loyal woman who was survived by her husband, Al Joyner, and seven-year-old daughter, Mary Ruth.

Many in the crowd of mourners at Saddleback Valley Church in suburban Orange County sobbed in their seats, shouted encouragement to the speakers or sang along with the often boisterous choir from Joyner's Baptist Church.

"I keep asking myself why did this happen," said Al Joyner, the 1984 Olympic triple jump champion.

Joyner, trying to suppress tears, was supported at the podium by his sister Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the heptathlon world record holder.

He recalled that their own mother had died at the age of 37. Florence Griffith Joyner was just 38 when she died in her sleep on Monday.

"One thing about Florence Griffith Joyner that nobody ever saw was that she gave unconditional love, regardless," Joyner said.

"I'm going to miss you," he added as he gazed down at the casket covered in a spray of white flowers.

Mary Ruth, dressed in a shimmering pink dress, sang a song for her mother, with just a little prompting from her aunt Jackie.

Nieces recalled with love the exotic gifts she brought them from around the world, as well as the party dresses she lent them.

But along with the affection was anger over the persistent speculation that Griffith Joyner's dominant performance at the 1988 Seoul Olympics was drug-assisted.

The rumours resurfaced after her death, despite the fact that Griffith Joyner never failed a drug test during her career.

"I've heard whole lot of bad things, but I don't hear too many people saying what they've done wrong," said Bobby Kersey, Griffith Joyner's one-time coach and husband of Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

Addressing Mary Ruth, Kersey said: "Your mama wants you to know that all those harshing, poisonous lies can't hurt her no more, the deadly, scorpion sting of reporters don't matter no more."

"God is coaching her now," Carol Land, who met Griffith Joyner in junior high school and spoke on behalf of a tight-knit group of friends, was also angry.

"I'm going to be like Mr Kersey and speak my mind," she said.

"My Bible tells me to give honour to who honour is due, if no one else in America gives honour to her, we do here today. She deserves honour."

The music-filled three-hour service was attended by some 1,500 people. International Olympic Committee vice-president Anita DeFrantz read a tribute from IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch. US Olympic committee president Bill Hybl praised Griffith Joyner as a model for the current crop of young women athletes.



Atletico Madrid's Valeron shoots as Real Sociedad's Juan Andres Gomez (on the ground) tries to obstruct during their First Division match in Madrid on September 26.

Spanish Premier league Real Madrid atop alone



MADRID, Sept 27. Real Madrid squeezed out a 3-2 victory over Athletic Bilbao on Saturday to go clear at the top of the Spanish First Division, reports Reuters.

Breakaway goals from Pedrag Mijatovic and Savio Bartolini early in the second half gave Real the decisive lead after an action-packed first 45 minutes had ended 1-1.

But the European champions had to survive a fierce final onslaught after Santiago Ezquerro had brought the Basque side back into the game with nine minutes to go.

Barcelona's stuttering start to the season continued at the Nou Camp as they were denied victory over Celta Vigo by an injury-time equaliser. Alexandre Mostovoi's goal snatching a 2-2 draw for the visitors.

But Atletico Madrid got their title campaign back on track — and moved up to second place in the process — with an impressive 4-1 win over Real Sociedad.

Real Madrid made the perfect start to their clash with Athletic, Raul latching on to a

Clarence Seedorf chip into the area to make it 1-0 on 12 minutes.

Athletic responded well, Ismael Urzaiz going close with a snap shot after good work on the right.

And Urzaiz got the equaliser after 21 minutes, outjumping Ivan Campo — making his Real Madrid debut in the centre of defence — to flash a header past keeper Bodo Illgner.

The home side should have made it 2-1 six minutes later after a push from Christian Panucci had resulted in a penalty but Urzaiz's side-foot shot was touch round the post by Illgner.

Real began the second half patiently, soaking up the Athletic pressure and taking control of the game with two swift counter-attacks.

Seedorf was the architect of both as he put first Mijatovic and then Savio clear on the left, both firing shots past keeper Imanol Etxebarria.

Athletic almost managed an immediate reply but Urzaiz's bicycle kick was disallowed because Joseba Etxebarria was standing offside.

As it was Ezquerro's header with nine minutes to go ensured a nerve-wracking finale for Real, who held on to go three points clear at the top.

Real's arch-rivals Barcelona looked set to notch their second victory of the season after two goals from Dutch international Patrick Kluijvert had given them a 2-1 lead.

But the Catalan club were forced to settle for their second successive 2-2 draw by Mostovoi's late, late intervention.

Atletico Madrid's win came despite the absence of Brazilian playmaker Juninho.

Arrigo Sacchi's side showed they could cope without the quicksilver forward as goals from Roberto Prieto, Kiko and Jordi Lardin put them 3-0 up at half-time.

Fernando Correa scored his first league goal for Atletico to make it four, before Oscar de Paulo grabbed a consolation for Real Sociedad from the penalty spot.

Valencia, who with Mallorca out of action until Sunday had the chance to go second, were outclassed 3-1 by Valladolid.

Villa strike purple patch



LONDON, Sept 27. Aston Villa boosted their lead in the English Premier League to five points on Saturday but the day was marred by the sight of a referee being shoved to the ground after showing a red card at Sheffield Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Villa capped one of their best starts to the season for decades with a 1-0 victory at home over second-placed Derby County.

But the result was overshadowed by one of the most spectacular sendings-off in Britain for years in Wednesday's 1-0 defeat of reigning champions Arsenal which ended with Wednesday's fiery striker Paolo Di Canio being suspended by his club.

The Italian floored referee Paul Alcock seconds after being shown the red card for violent conduct and now faces what is likely to be tough punishment by the English Football Association (FA).

Arsenal's Martin Keown was also sent off after the mass brawl on the pitch.

Announcing that Di Canio had been suspended with immediate effect, Wednesday manager Danny Wilson said: "He totally lost it for a second, we suspended him straight away. I don't know what was going through his head."

FA spokesman David Davies added: "This is a very serious incident indeed. It is very clear what happened."

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"The FA have considerable powers. People will look at precedents of assaults on referees and alleged assaults. When they have been seen to be proved, the punishments have been very serious in terms of suspensions."

England international Paul Merson, a recent signing from Middlesbrough, helped Villa boost their lead over second-placed Derby with a well-taken 15th minute goal.

After beating the Derby offside trap, Merson sprinted down the middle and slotted the ball just inside the left-hand post.

The game in Birmingham between two clubs who started the day just two points apart should have taken centre stage.

But the game at Sheffield which ended with a dramatic late winner from Lee Briscoe, a

superb chip from the edge of the box, was the talk of the day.

The visit of George Graham's Leeds United to Tottenham Hotspur also ended in a dramatic 3-3 draw.

Graham, reported to be set to take over as the new boss at Spurs, was just about to hand over a perfect reference to his prospective new employers when his team were leading 3-2 in injury time.

But a dramatic equaliser from England international Sol Campbell earned the home side a vital point.

Graham got some criticism from some of the Leeds fans during the game but he said he did not hear it.

The former Arsenal boss made it clear that he would be in charge when Leeds take on Portugal's Maritimo in the UEFA Cup next week but the chairman of the two clubs are expected to hold talks during the week about his future.

"I am the manager of Leeds United and I have always given 100 per cent for any club I have worked for and I have always left them in a good state," the Scottish manager said.

Rudd Gullit's Newcastle United put on yet another convincing performance when the downed Nottingham Forest 2-0. England captain Alan Shearer gave the Magpies the lead evading an off side trap early in the first half and with seconds left of the match he coolly converted a penalty after being hacked down inside the Forest box.

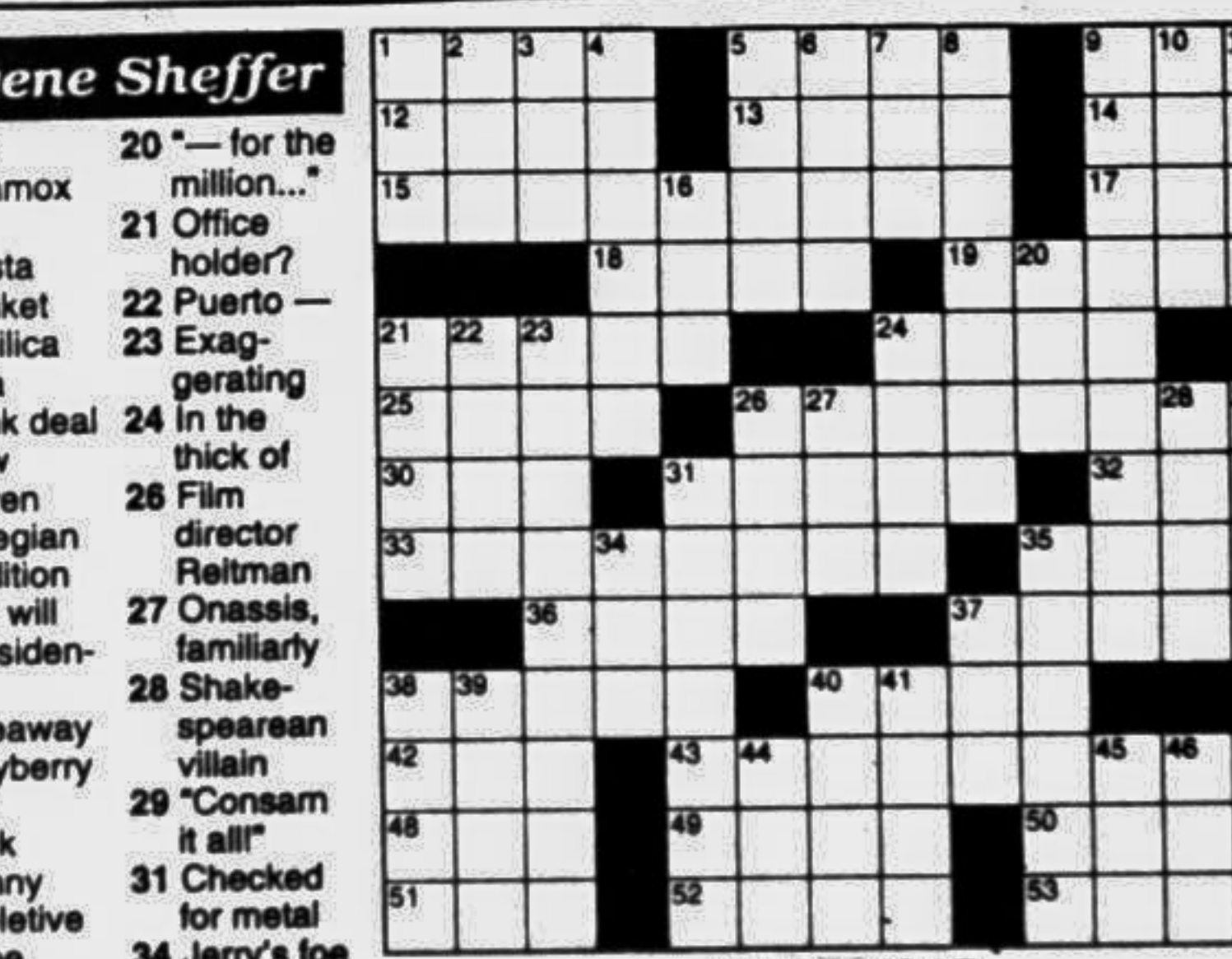
Spain wants Euro 2004

MADRID, Sept 27. Spain's football federation (RFEF) on Saturday launched its campaign to host the 2004 European Championship finals, reports Reuters.

RFEF president Angel Maria Villar announced a shortlist of 15 possible venues for the tournament and said Spain deserved to win the race to host the competition.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Shows awaited
 - 3 Bakery come-on
 - 5 A Baldwin brother
 - 9 Intimidate
 - 12 Exceptional "Do"
 - 13 Charles' pastime
 - 14 Mimic
 - 15 Mentioned previously
 - 17 Wire measure
 - 18 Congregational cry
 - 19 Force
 - 21 Farm output
 - 24 Word with test or rain
 - 25 Dwell
 - 26 1971 Neil Diamond hit
 - 30 Tara Lipinsky's milieu
 - 31 Spring month, in France
 - 32 Crossword clue abbr.
 - 33 Suez Canal city
 - 35 Billion: prefix
 - 36 Petty officer
 - 37 Whom two
- DOWN
- 2 Lummox
 - 3 Pal
 - 4 Siesta blanket
 - 5 Basilica area
 - 6 Bank deal
 - 7 New Haven collegian
 - 8 Addition to a will
 - 9 Presidential
 - 10 Ruin the hideaway
 - 11 Mayberry boy
 - 11 Jack Benny expletive
 - 16 Type squares
 - 20 "— for the million..."
 - 21 Office holder?
 - 22 Puerto —
 - 23 Exaggerating
 - 24 Film director
 - 26 Film
 - 27 Onassis, familiarly
 - 28 Shakespearean villain
 - 29 "Consume it all!"
 - 31 Checked for metal
 - 34 Jerry's foe
 - 35 Kids' card game
 - 37 Tibetan gazelle
 - 38 Shot
 - 39 Peruse the newspaper
 - 40 Wished otherwise
 - 41 1952 Olympic site
 - 44 Eggs
 - 45 Female antelope
 - 46 "Cybil" role
 - 47 Newsmen Koppel



Solution time: 25 min.

AMTD AHA LAST
CAROUSEL UPLY
EXACTING GOLF
SLOOP PATROT
SLOOP PATROT
ASH AREAS OWE
SUNBURN OVAE
ABLE NUDEE
ANIMAL GOO
DADA EXAMINER
LIEB
MESH STE SPAT

Yesterday's answer

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16 17
18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31 32 33 34 35
36 37 38 39 40 41
42 43 44 45 46 47
48 49 50
51

CRYPTOQUIP

Z H D I Z D S D R F B R R F D
H D Y R O B Q D R T K Z S D
B O Y B S D N B K D K W G
Z Y Y W N D I G O T N Q .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT DID THE DEDICATED SWORD SWALLOWER ORDER AS A SIDE DISH? COLE SAW.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: O equals N
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

EIGHT CARDS EVER, NINE CARDS NEVER
(Hand # 105)

North	South	West	East (D)
♠ S 8 X	♠ S 9 7 6 X X	♠ H 8 X	♠ S AKJX
♥ H KOJ 10 8 X	♥ H 8 X	♥ D AJX	♥ H A 9 7 X
♦ D 10 8 X	♦ D AJX	♦ C A 10 X	♦ D Q 8
♣ C X X			♣ C K Q X

Bidding: East-West were vulnerable.

South	West	North	East
Pass	1 Heart**	2 Hearts	1 Club*
Pass	3 Spades	Pass	2 No Trumps
Pass	5 Hearts	Double	4 No Trumps
Pass	Pass	Pass	6 Spades

* Artificial, 18 or more HCP.
** Artificial, 7-9 HCP.

With nineteen HCP East opened 1 Club and partner showed 7-9 HCP. Under the system followed, the first bid suit would show 5 cards. Hence, East bid 2 No Trumps on North's 2 Hearts overall. West showed his 5-card Spade suit which was very encouraging for East. He checked the Aces and on finding both with the partner went to six Spades.

THE PLAY

North opened the King of Hearts and the declarer won the trick with the Ace. Next he played the King of Spades and the Ten appeared from the South. Could it be a singleton? The declarer then entered dummy with the Ace of Clubs and played the 9 of Spades. When North played the 8, the declarer thought for a while and remembered the old saying, "eight cards ever, nine cards never," and played the Ace. The Queen appeared. Next he took the successful Diamond finesse and made the slam.