LONDON, Oct 5: England manager Glenn Hoddle has defended his decision to allow his players to use energy-boosting injections in the World Cup, reports Xinhua.

And he urged the press to stop writing "rubbish" about him being a "wacko" and let him get on with the task of leading the national side. "There is a lot of baggage that comes with this job and they're

trying to assassinate me in many ways," he told BBC Radio 5 live on Sunday. Hoddle was criticised last

week by Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson for allowing a French doctor to give the injections to members of his squad during the World Cup in France this summer.

But the England boss rejected Ferguson's claims and said he had written to all the clubs before France '98.

"The Manchester United doctor spoke to the doctor we used for the World Cup two to three weeks ago, found out exactly what was used and there was no problem whatsoever," Hoddle

"Ironically the two players Alex Ferguson was talking about, Paul Scholes and Teddy Sheringham, didn't have any injections so I don't really know where last week's story came from.

Hoddle is becoming increas-ingly frustrated with his profile in the popular press and has hit back at those who question his use of faith healers and vitamin injections.

"Why is it wacko when the Brazil, Italian and German teams have been doing that for 20 years?" Hoddle asked.

Ajax in search of foreign aides

AMSTERDAM, Oct 5 (Reuters/ Internet): Dutch champions Ajax Amsterdam said on Monday they were in talks with Belgian first division team Germinal Ekeren with a view to forming some sort of partnership.

"We are looking at foreign sides, the point being to expand the potential pool of new talent," a club spokesman said.

However, Ajax will not necessarily take a majority stake in Ekeren, as suggested by Belgian newspaper Het Laatste Nieuws.

The paper quoted Ajax treasurer Arie van Os as saying that this was one option open to the club in its efforts to branch out of the Netherlands.

"We can do so in five ways -takeover, merger, co-operation. minority stake or majority stake," Van Os told Het Laatste Nieuws.

Bayern drop first points

BERLIN, Oct 5: Borussia Dortmund, showing signs of jelling in a rebuilding year, on Sunday stopped Bayern Munich from equalling their own Bundesliga record of seven straight victories to open the season, reports AP.

Christian Nerlinger, signed away from Munich this season, headed in the 49th minute over error-prone 37-year-old libero Lothar Matthaeus in the 49th minute to lift visiting Dortmund to a 2-2 draw.

Munich had opened with seven straight victories in the 1995-96 season before Dortmund dealt them a loss.

West

South

Pass

3 Spades*

6 Hearts

Pass

hands

THE PLAY

4 No Trumps

♥H XX

♦ D 9XXX

♣ C None

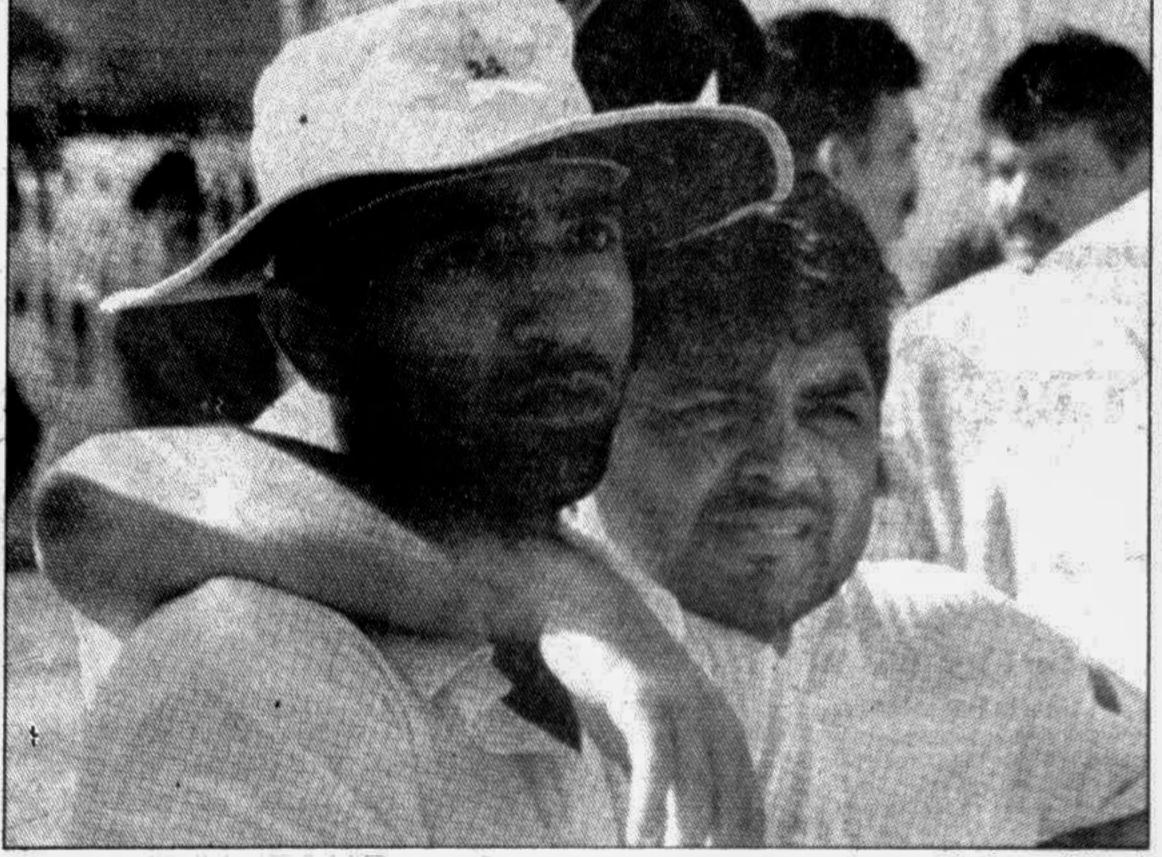
♦S Q 10876XX

Bidding; East-West were vulnerable

Artificial, showing 10-12 HCP.

West

Pass



THEIR FACES SAY IT ALL: Saeed Anwar (L) and Pakistan teammate Mushtaq Ahmed wearing a dejected look after the defeat against Australia in the first Test yesterday. -AP/UNB photo

Spin & hands of Healy

LONDON, Oct 5 (Reuters/ Internet): Mirroring the shift in emphasis from pace to spin in the Australian national side. Ian Healy has stumped twice as many

Rodney Marsh. Healy, who beat Marsh's world record for wicketkeeping Test dismissals on Sunday, has spent the majority of his international career keeping wicket to the incomparable Shane

batsmen as his predecessor

Of his victims, 25 have been stumped while Marsh, who formed an equally formidable partnership with Dennis Liliee. stumped only 12.

"Healy would have done anything to keep to Lillee," Marsh wrote in The Observer last Sunday. "I'd have done the same to keep to Warne." A breakdown of the dis-

missals of the world's top 10

wicketkeepers reveals differences in eras and countries. Jeff Dujon, third on the list with 272 dismissals, was a splendidly athletic 'keeper but one who was virtually a slip fielder with gloves to the West Indies' fast bowlers. England's Alan Knott, fourth with 269, was brilliant stand-

ing up to the stumps to the medium-pace spin of Derek Underwood, particularly on a rain-affected pitch. But Knott, maybe the great-

est all-round wicketkeeper in history, pioneered the modern trend of standing back when possible, reasoning that the stumpings missed were out-



weighed by the increased opportunity for catches.

Although keeping to Underwood, Ray Illingworth and Fred Titmus for a good portion of a lengthy career, stretching from 1968 to 1981. Knott stumped only 19 batsmen.

Godfrey Evans, the other England wicketkeeper in the top 10, adopted a radically different approach to Knott.

Evans stood up to the fastmedium inswing of Alec Bedser and his 36 stumpings also reflect a golden era of England spin bowling with Jim Laker, Tony Lock and Bob Appleyard. The third Australian on the list, Wally Grout, also kept in

an era when teams routinely fielded two spinners as well as having the advantage of keeping to Richie Benaud. India's Syed Kirmani, who stumped 38 of his 198 victims,

holds the world record for stumpings. Kirmani kept wicket at a time when the Indian opening bowlers were used merely to take the shine of the ball,

standing up for hours on end to Bishen Bedi, Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and Erapally

Fiorentina ride on Edmundo



SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

BY DOUBLING SIX HEARTS, EAST PUSHED THE

OPPONENTS TO A MAKEABLE CONTRACT

(Hand # 112)

₩ H AQ 107 X

◆ D KQJ10

AS AJ9XX

North

Double

4 Hearts

5 Hearts

6 No Trumps

Pass

The pre-emptive opening bid of 3 Clubs by East was doubled by North.

Following their bidding system South showed HCP in the range of 10-12.

When North bid 4 Hearts, South with a good fit in the partner's bid suit

and singleton in Club checked the Aces. A contract of 6 Hearts was

reached but East doubled for penalty. North rightly shifted to 6 No

Trumps as he suspected freak distribution of cards in the opponents'

Against 6 No Trumps West had an opening lead problem From Q 10 8

he did not like to lead a Spade. He therefore led a small Diamond. The

declarer won the trick with the 10 in the dummy. Next he played the

King of Spades and East showed out. He noted carefully that West did

not make a natural lead of Club and East was void in Spade. He

congratulated himself for shifting from 6 Hearts to 6 No Trumps as both

West and East would have been able to ruff Club and Spade in the Heart

contract. The King of Diamonds was cashed and then the declarer entered

the closed hand with the Ace of Diamonds and East again showed out.

Next he played the J of Hearts and when West played low, the declarer

played the Ace, East following. At this stage, the declarer thought deeply

and came to the conclusion that he could make the contract provided East

had two-card Hearts with the King. If that was so, East would be forced

to lead Club as he was already void of Spade and Diamond. The declarer

therefore played the Queen of Hearts, and as anticipated East won the

trick with the King and had to return a Club. Thus, the declarer made 4

Heart, 2 Spade, 4 Diamond and 2 Club tricks to make 6 No Trumps.

♥ H. J96X

♦ D A87

+C X

+ C AQ6

South

North

ROME, Oct 5: Gabriel Batistuta had a quiet day, but another of Fiorentina's many weapons hit the target

Sunday to keep the club alone atop the Italian league, reports

Brazilian striker Edmundo scored his first goal of the Serie A season off a nice exchange with Portuguese playmaker Rui Costa in the third minute of injury time to lift Fiorentina past Udinese 1-0 for their fourth win in as many games.

Batistuta, an Argentine, and Udinese's Marcio Amoroso, a Brazilian, entered the day tied for the league lead with five

East (D)

♣ S None

VH K8

♦ D 6 X

♣ C KJ10987XXX

3 Clubs

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

Double

goals apiece, but both were held "This team knows how to win when it struggles. It has

character," Fiorentina coach Giovanni Trapattoni said. "This was a victory that we deserved." Fiorentina, enjoying their first stay in first place since 1982, have 12 points, two more

than internazionale (3-1-0). who continue to thrive despite the lengthy absences of superstars Ronaldo and Roberto Bag-Chile's Ivan Zamorano and

France's Youri Djorkaeff did the damage Sunday in a 2-0 win over pesky Perugia 2-0.

Zamorano scored with a 12metre shot 11 minutes into the game, and Djorkaeff, a member of the World Cup champions. capped a superb individual outing with an insurance goal off a short-range header in the

54th. Elsewhere, German striker Oliver Bierhoff headed home his fifth goal of the season just three minutes into AC Milan's

2-0 road win against Venezia. Milan, coming off back-toback poor seasons, have nine points and shares third place with Juventus. The two-time defending champions rebounded from last week's loss to Parma by edging Piacenza 1-0 on Filippo Inzaghi's early goal. Also Sunday, Italian Cup land next Saturday.

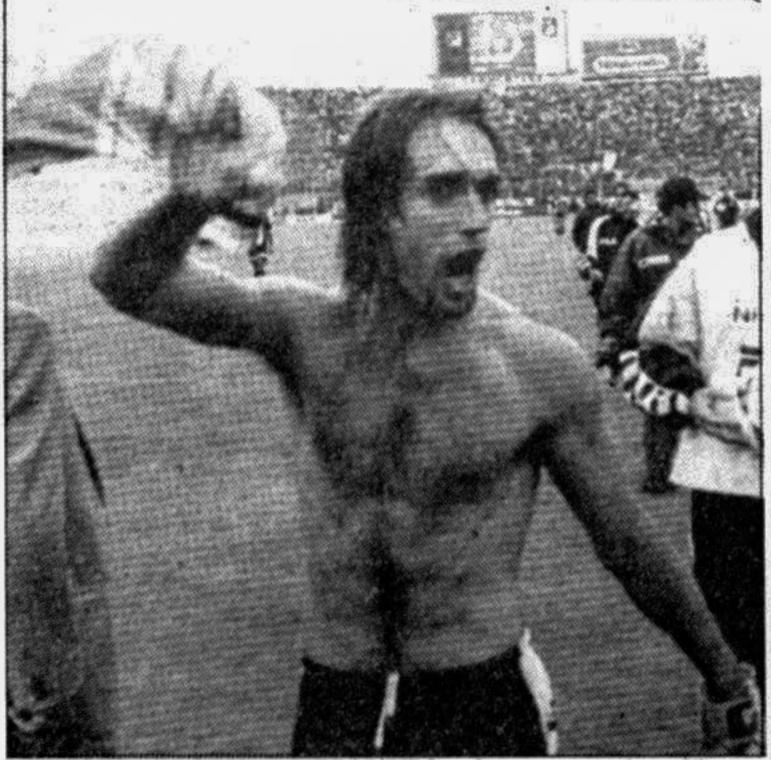
At Florence, Rui Costa provided the pass and Edmundo the strike at the end of a swift counterattack in the game's dying seconds. The difference between this Fiorentina and that of recent years is that Batistuta now gets consistent support from his teammates, both in attack and on defense.

Fifth-place Udinese (2-1-1) nearly pulled off the upset. though, when midfielder Jonathan Bachini's shot in the 52nd minute hit the base of the post with Fiorentina keeper Francesco Toldo out of position.

INTER 2, PERUGIA

At Milan, Djorkaeff was brilliant, providing the playmaking and leadership that some thought Inter would lack with the veteran Baggio and Brazil's Ronaldo sidelined by knee injuries. Djorkaeff, whose goal late in second-half injury time Wednesday gave Inter a 1-0 Champions League win over Austria's Sturm Graz, was quick to get his head on the rebound after Perugia 'keeper Marco Roccati failed to hold winger Francesco Moriero's 30-

metre blast. Inter also produced their top defensive effort of the season, caging in dangerous Japanese midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata



Gabriel Batistuta, Fiorentina's Argentine ace, exulting after the Serie A match against Udinese at Florence on October 4. Fiorentina won 1-0 to stay atop the standings.

holders Lazio finally recorded their first win of the season, 2-0 over 10-man Cagliari; Parma were shut out for the third time and drew 0-0 at Bologna; Vicenza beat Bari 1-0; and Salernitana and Empoli drew 1-1. Sampdoria hosted Roma in the night match.

The fifth round of games will be in two weeks, because Italy's national team plays a Euro 2000 qualifier against Switzer-

-AP/UNB photo (three goals in four games). Pe-

MILAN 2, VENEZIA 0 At Venice, Brazil's Leonardo provided the corner kick for Bierhoff's early goal and then sent a 7-metre shot into the low corner to seal victory in the 67th minute. Milan are 3-0-1,

while Venezia are 0-1-3 and the

only club in the 18-team league

rugia fell to 0-2-2.

without a goal.

Italy team for match against Switzerland

ROME, Oct 5 (Reuters/Internet) : Italy squad for European championship Group A qualifier against Switzerland on October 10 in Udine:

Goalkeepers: Gianluigi Buffon (Parma). Francesco Toldo (Fiorentina) **Defenders:** Fabio Cannavaro

(Parma), Giuseppe Favalli (Lazio), Paolo Maldini (AC Milan), Christian Panucci (AC Milan). Gianluca Pessotto. (Juventus), Moreno Torricelli (Fiorentina) Midfielders: Demetrio Albertini (AC Milan), Jonathan

Bachini, Giuliano Gian-

nichedda (both Udinese). Dino

Baggio, Diego Fuser (both Parma). Luigi Di Biagio, Eusebio Di Francesco (AS Roma) Forwards: Enrico Chiesa (Parma), Alessandro Del Piero, Filippo Inzaghi (both Juventus), Francesco Totti (AS Roma),

Nicola Ventola (Inter Milan)

Russian squad for Euro '2000 qualifiers

MOSCOW, Oct 5 (AFP): Russian coach Anatoly Byshovets today named his side for European Championships Group Four qualifying matches. against France on October 10 and Iceland on October 14.

TEAM Goalkeepers: Sergei Ovchin-

nikov (Benfica). Stanislav Cherchesov (FC Tirol), Dmitry Kharin (Chelsea)

Defenders: Yevgeny Varlamov (CSKA Moscow), Alexei Ignonin (Zenit St. Petersburg). Yury Kovtun (Dynamo Moscow), Andrei Solomatin (Lokomotiv Moscow), Dmitry Khlestov (Spartak Moscow), Yury Nikiforov (SPV Eindhoven). Viktor Onopko (Real Oviedo). Igor Yanovsky (Paris SG).

Midfielders: Yegor Titov (Spartak Moscow). Ilya Tsymbalar (Spartak Moscow), Andrei Tikhonov (Spartak Moscow) Sergei Semak (CSKA Moscow). Valery Yesipov (Rotor Volgograd). Alexei Smertin (Uralan Elista). Dmitry Alenichev (AS Roma), Alexander Mostovoy (Celta Vigo), Valery Karpin (Celta Vigo). Dmitry Khohlov (PSV Eindhoven), Igor Shalimov (Napoli)

Forwards: Oleg Teryokhin (Dynamo Moscow). Vladimir Beschastnykh (Racing Santander).

Confederations Cup fixture

MEXICO CITY, Oct 5 (Xinhua): Following is the calendar of the January 8-20 Confederations Cup soccer tourna ment to be played in Mexico (Group A will play at the Mexico City Aztec Stadium. Group B will play at the Jalisco Stadium in Guadalajara)

Group A January 9: Bolivia vs Egypt (23:00 GMT)

January 9: Mexico vs Saudi Arabia (01:00 GMT) January 12: Saudi Arabia vs Bolivia (24:00 GMT)

January 12: Mexico vs Egypt (02:30 GMT) January 14: Saudi Arabia vs Egypt (24:00 GMT)

January 14: Mexico vs Bolivia (02:30 GMT) Group B January 8: Brazil vs France

(01:30 GMT) January 10: New Zealand vs

United States (17:00 GMT) January 13: France vs New Zealand (23:00 GMT) January 13: Brazil vs United States (01:30 GMT)

January 15: France vs United States (23:00 GMT) January 15: Brazil vs New Zealand (01:30 GMT) Semifinals

January 17: Mexico City: winner of Group A vs runner-up of Group B (17:00 GMT) Third place

Guadalajara, January 19 (01:30 GMT) Final

Mexico City, January 20 (01:30 GMT). Betis shoot

Real down MADRID, Oct 5: Real Madrid

dropped out of first place in the Spanish soccer league Sunday after a 1-0 loss at home to lastplace Betis in the fifth round, reports AP.

Nigerian international Finidi George's 55th minute smash past sprawled German' keeper Bodo Illgner was enough to give Betis their first league victory this season.

> Belgrade tie postponed

DUBLIN, Oct 5 (Reuters/ Internet): Irish soccer officials said on Monday their European Championship qualifier with Yugoslavia had been postponed from October 10 but UEFA had indicated it could be played a month later.

"We're disappointed it's not going ahead but relieved a decision has been made," Brendan McKenna, press spokesman for the Football Association of Ireland, said. "We've been told to keep November 18 free but it's not clear yet where the match will be played," another association officiál said. With NATO countries con-

sidering military action following reported atrocities against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, a friendly match between England and Yugoslavia scheduled for November had already been called off. UEFA said after a meeting of

the European Championship's

organising committee that Ire-

land's match had been post-

poned "for reasons of security"

along with the corresponding

Under 21 fixture.

Kisses this time from Romario



Oct 5 (Reuters/ Internet): Romario opted for blowing kisses to the crow d instead of making insulting gestures after scoring twice for Flamengo in

the Brazilian championship. In Argentina, Boca Juniors extended their lead and the referee of their game had to be sub-

stituted after pulling a muscle. Flamengo striker Romario, who celebrated a goal by making an obscene gesture with his finger to the team's fans on Wednesday, this time blew kisses after scoring twice in the 3-2 win over Atletico Mineiro.

Romario's goals, which took his tally to eight in the championship, came in the last 15 mistutes as the relegation-Mreatened giants came from behind against in-form Atletico.

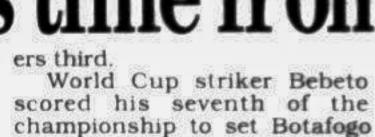
Atletico had coach Carlos Alberto Torres, captain of Brazil's 1970 World Cup team, and central defender Lima sent

Only 7,000 fans watched at

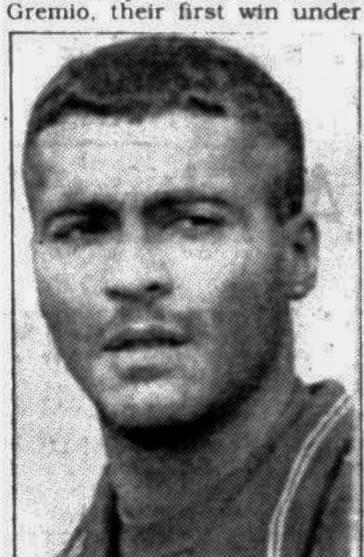
the Maracana stadium where the record attendance is over 200,000. Santos stayed top by drawing 1-1 away to Coritiba while Palmeiras moved into second place by beating local rivals

Corinthians 3-1 in a Sao Paulo

Corinthians's third successive defeat left the former lead-



on the way to a 2-1 win over



ROMARIO

new coach Valdir Espinosa. The 24 teams play each other once with the top eight teams going into the quarter-finals. With seven rounds to go, Santos, Palmeiras and Corinthians and Portuguesa appear set to reach the last

The race for the remaining

places is open with only nine points separating fifth-placed Sport Recife and 15th-placed

Juventude. ARGENTINA

Boca Juniors increased their lead in the Apertura (Opening) championship to five points after a 3-0 win over Platense, during which the referee had to

be substituted because of injury Angel Sanchez left the field in the first minute of the second half with a pulled calf muscle and was replaced by the reserve referee Rodolfo Otero.

Boca's goals came from midfielders Jose Basualdo and Juan Riquelme and defender Walter Samuel while striker Martin Palermo, the competition's top scorer, failed to add to his total for the second successive game. Second-placed Velez Sarsfield lost their unbeaten record in a 2-1 defeat at Ferro Carril

Oeste. The champions were de-railed by goals by Uruguayan Hugo Guerra and Grana. River Plate, champions in three of the last four competitions, continued a miserable run with a 1-1 draw away to

Union, a result that left them

17th with just one win in nine

games. The Apertura is the first of two championships played in the Argentine season. The teams meet each other once in each and there is no overall champion.



DENNIS THE MENACE: Arsenal's Dutch superstar Dennis Bergkamp tries to get the better of Newcastle defender Laurent Charvet during their English premiership clash at Highbury, London on October 4. Bergkamp netted twice as the Gunners won 3-0.

Bergkamp breaks his jinx



LONDON, October 5(Mail/Internet): Dennis Bergkamp restored the natural order of things by reminding Neweastle of the undiminished po-

tency of Arsenal's football. The brief Newcastle revival under Ruud Gullit, disguising the shortcomings in the team he inherited from Kenny Dalglish, ground to an abrupt halt at Highbury on the Sunday when Bergkamp finally rediscovered his priceless goalscoring touch.

Arsenal's 3-0 victory was no

more than they deserved and

provided Gullit with the evi-

dence that he hopes will prompt the Newcastle board to embark on another vast spending spree. 'It was easy for them,' said Gullit afterwards. Too easy. Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger disputed Gullit's as-

sessment but added: 'It became easy for us because of the way we played. With Tony Adams and Mar-

tin Keown at their most diligent. Newcastle had few realistic goalscoring opportunities. Alan Shearer's recent rich goalscoring form counted for

40 P.E.

42 Spa

45 Engages in

penguin

50 Old French

fine seam"

humble.

54 Division

56 \$2 trans-

actions

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer

55 Egress

52 "And -

Maryland's

state sport

ACROSS

5 Back talk

Bradley

13 Keatsian

14 Sharpen

15 Mrs. Nick

Charles

16 No Derby

winner,

17 Erstwhile

18 Alberto

sport

20 Meager

Peruvian

Tomba's

23 Somewhat:

suffix

27 Distin-

24 Afflictions

guishing

charac-

teristic

Buscaglia

Nine" role

32 Author

33 "Deep

34 Trolling

35 Jamaica'

38 Puts

22 - Angeles 57 Swab

8 Svelte

12 Gen.

nothing. The England captain rarely broke free from Adams in an intriguing duel from which Arsenal's former England captain emerged triumphant. So, in the battle of the big

name strikers, there was one clear winner - Bergkamp. As subtle as Shearer is powerful. the Dutchman finally scored his first goals of the season and should have had a hat-trick. 'Dennis needed that,' said Wenger afterwards. 'His goals

came as a consequence of the chances we created but, physically, he's looking sharper and his reactions are quicker. Bergkamp's opening goal in the 20th minute came giftwrapped by Nicolas Anelka. The young Frenchman finished

a crossfield run with a perfectly

weighted pass through a square defence into the Newcastle area Bergkamp was first to react, pouncing on the ball, filching it from the lunging tackle of Stuart Pearce before calmly

Victoria?

Balboa's

42 LBJ son-

43 Duel tool

44 Squad

47 Clone,

51 ---

loosely

41 Rocky

shooting past Shay Given. Only the acrobatics of the young Newcastle goalkeeper prevented Arsenal from scoring five or six goals. He demonstrated his agility in the opening minute with great reflex saves from headers by Fredrik Ljunberg and Tony Adams.

But there was not much he could do about Anelka's goal in the 28th minute. Bergkamp chased a high ball from Marc Overmars, running into the penalty area on the left. As Given advanced, Bergkamp passed inside to the on-rushing Anelka who scored with the simplest of touches.

Having already been cautioned, the Greek defender was sent off, leaving Bergkamp to fire home from the penalty spot It was the skill of Bergkamp that really underlined the difference in the sides though even he couldn't beat Given to secure the hat-trick he deserved.

Awarded a penalty after a challenge by substitute Philippe Albert, Bergkamp again drove his shot to Given's right but this time the Newcastle goalkeeper

saved brilliantly. In the other big match of the day, Liverpool and Chelsea drew 1-1 at Anfield. Italian Pier Luigi- Casiraghi gave Chelsea the lead in the 8th minute but Jemie Redknapecurled in a freekick in the second half to deny

BXIQODU MKMZZAV JIYDEJB

ZIQXVIQBD Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU REMEMBER THAT IMPOSSIBLE CHILD ACTRESS, SURLY TEMPLE?

attractive 48 Fill till full Magnon locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer together 58 Force unit bane 39 4, on the DOWN 19 007's first 1 Cellmates, film foe 21 Abner's adjective 2 Frenzied 24 Type 3 Rani's 25 Wahine's wrapbestowal around 49 Comic-strip 4 Paths 26 Field of 5 Unlikely expertise 28 Commotion 6 Mrs. 29 Field event McKinley 30 Embar-7 Cribbage 8 Branch of 31 Chess 9 Script, e.g. 36 Ibsen 10 Minimal 37 Lancelot, measure 11 Vegan's 38 Unlike

ZQXA UIQ YDMY KEZAX LOY

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals U
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

CRYPTOQUIP

the visitors.