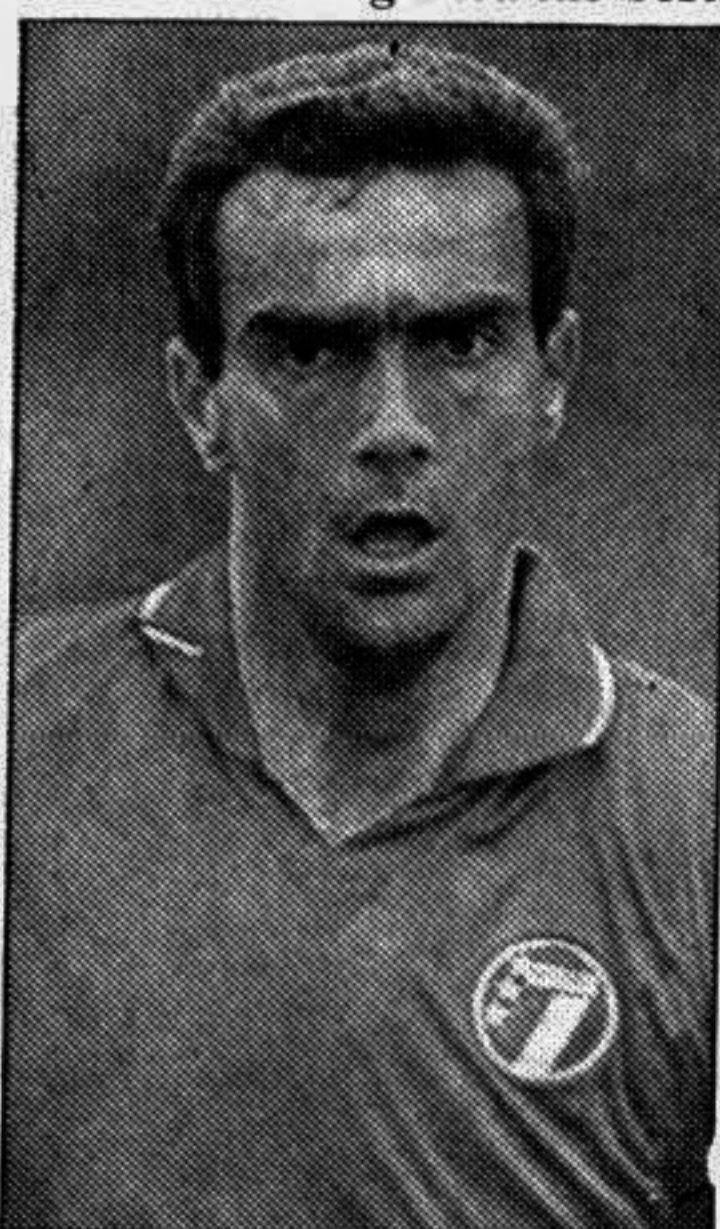


'Uncle' Bergomi set for 500th appearance

ROME, Oct 14 (Reuters/Internet): Inter Milan defender Giuseppe Bergomi will reach another milestone in a long and successful career with Inter Milan when he makes his 500th league appearance against Lazio at the San Siro on Sunday.



BERGOMI

form, playing a vital part in a successful season, which saw Inter finish second in Serie A and win the UEFA Cup.

Bergomi, known to fans throughout Italy as 'Zio' or 'Uncle', has been an ever present in the Italian game since he was drafted into Italy's 1982 World Cup final winning side as a raw 18-year-old.

Zidane vows to deliver

MILAN, Oct 14 (AFP): Juventus' struggling star Zinedine Zidane sent the home fans a message on Tuesday - if you think Alessandro Del Piero is back to his best, just watch me.



ZINEDINE ZIDANE

"Perhaps someone called Hector Zidane, I don't know ... it's not something I'm happy about, but I'm happy about, but I'm happy about, but I'm happy about,

I know full well that I haven't done much for Juventus since the start of the season, and let's not even talk about the last game against Piacenza, it wasn't 'Zi-Zou' playing, or even his shadow.

A test for Brazil's new boys

WASHINGTON, Oct 14: Brazil's exhibition game at RFK stadium on Wednesday carries about one thousandth of the magnitude of their World Cup final match in Paris three months ago, reports AP.

That second place would be a super result for many people, said Cafu, the team's new captain. "No one expected France to win. They did win. In my feeling, we have to win no matter who we play."

That doesn't matter, says new coach Wanderley Luxemburgo. "Being the Brazilians, we always have to win," Luxemburgo said. "That's the obligation, whether it is in Washington or another country."

SIX NO TRUMPS A K Sayeedul Huq EAST'S DOUBLE ASKS FOR AN UNUSUAL LEAD (Hand # 120)

Bidding: Nonc vulnerable South opened 1 Heart with a powerful two suiter hand. North showed a good Spade suit.

THE PLAY West dutifully led the J of Hearts as he rightly thought that partner must be void in the suit. He himself was holding five of them.

Holland fail to break Ghana

ARNHEM, Netherlands, Oct 14: A young and inexperienced Ghana side held the star-studded Netherlands - who finished fourth in this summer's soccer World Cup - to a shock 0-0 draw Tuesday in a friendly international, reports AP.

The Dutch had most of the play and the majority of the chances but could not convert on an evening when both Dennis Bergkamp of Arsenal and Barcelona's Patrick Kluivert looked out of sorts.

The Dutch started strongly and forced a string of corners in the first 15 minutes but could not turn the pressure into goals. Arsenal winger Marc Overmars had three good chances before the break.

He first came close in the 6th minute when he cut inside from the left flank and unleashed a powerful right-foot shot from 25 yards (meters) that Kingston palmed over the bar.

'Leave Gazza alone'

LONDON, Oct 14 (Reuters/Internet): Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson said on Wednesday Paul Gascoigne would be out of soccer for an "indefinite period" and called for him to be left alone to recover from alcohol and stress problems.

"We would like a situation where no-one is trying to get horrible little photos through windows or standing in the gates of hospitals and not giving him the privacy to try to rebuild what he wants in life," said Robson.



EVEN GREAT ONES DO THE BASICS: Superstar Denilson practising ball-control on Oct 13 at the Robert F Kennedy Stadium ahead of Brazil's friendly against Ecuador.



Dennis Bergkamp (C), the Dutch striker shoots amidst a host of Ghana defenders during their friendly at Arnheim, Netherlands on October 13. The match ended 0-0. - AFP photo

Fans want Hoddle ousted

LONDON, Oct 14: A vast majority of football fans would like to see Glenn Hoddle sacked immediately as the England manager, according to a poll organised by British tabloid newspaper the Sun, reports AFP.

No fewer than 71 per cent of the newspaper's readers voted for Hoddle to be axed.

Tyson 'fit to box again'

LAS VEGAS, Oct 14 (AP): Mike Tyson told psychiatrists he was very depressed the second time he fought Evander Holyfield because of personal and financial problems and was feeling betrayed by "people I would have died for."

A report by a team of psychiatrists who examined the former heavyweight champion portrays him as lacking in self-esteem and depressed to the point that he has been taking anti-depressant drugs in the months following the Holyfield fight.

However, the report says the former heavyweight boxing champion is "fit to box again." The report was ordered by the Nevada State Athletic Commission as a requirement for Tyson in his attempt to regain his licence.

"I have no self-esteem, but the biggest ego in the world," Tyson told the psychiatrists. The report says Tyson felt embarrassed and humiliated by having to undergo five days of psychological testing last month before doctors in Boston, and was concerned that people would think he was "psycho."

It also says he has problems dealing with his status as a celebrity. "I don't want super stardom," Tyson said.

Police probe on Atletico

MADRID, Oct 14: Spanish anti-corruption police raided the offices of Atletico Madrid at the Vicente Calderon stadium on Tuesday night, Spanish state television said, reports Reuters.

The town is close to bankruptcy after running up debts in the region of 220 million US dollars and the regional authorities in Andalusia have refused Gil, a construction tycoon, permission for any more building development in the town.

Bayern for Short-listed Bundesliga

MUNICH, Oct 14 (Reuters/Internet): Bayern Munich want the German first division to be reduced from 18 to 16 teams to give the top clubs more time to prepare for their European Champions' League matches.

"It would certainly help if we had only 16 clubs," Bayern vice-president Fritz Scherer said on Wednesday. Scherer said there should be fewer German first division fixtures if the Champions' League was to feature 32 clubs.

Last week UEFA, reacting to plans by several leading European clubs, including Bayern, to set up a breakaway Super League, outlined proposals to expand the Champions' League to 32 clubs from next season.

"Such an evolution does not threaten the existence of the Bundesliga," Scherer said. "It (the expanded Champions' League) is not a proper league. We will stay in the Bundesliga. What would the Bundesliga be worth, without Bayern and Dortmund?" Scherer said Bayern had noted UEFA's proposals and disagreed on one issue - the fact that the European body would continue to market television rights.

"We don't want the television rights to be marketed through UEFA. We want to handle that ourselves," he said.

Boots on loan

MILAN, Oct 14 (Reuters/Internet): Inter Milan defender Salvatore Fresi has moved to Serie A rivals Salernitana on loan, Inter said on Wednesday.

The two clubs will decide at the end of the season whether to make the move permanent.

Fresi broke into the Inter first team at the end of last season but has failed to hold his place since the new season started.

At issue at Monday's hearing will not only be Tyson's psychological records, but questions about a traffic altercation he was involved in August 31. "It will be a very interesting hearing," predicted Marc Ratner, the commission's executive director.

Jimmerson was upbeat about the reports as he personally delivered them to the commission offices, despite having spent the last two weeks trying to keep them secret.

"He is sound mentally, he is sound physically, and he is sound neurologically," Jimmerson said.

evaluate Tyson's application to box again. The examiners included a neuropsychologist, psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, two neurologists and a doctor-lawyer. The commission will meet Monday to determine whether to relicence Tyson. If Tyson is denied a licence, he will have to wait another year to be able to return to the ring.

Tyson's lawyer, Jim Jimmerson, earlier described the reports as positive and said show that Tyson is mentally and physically able to fight. He acknowledged, though that they contain things Tyson would rather not be seen.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword puzzle grid, clues, and solutions.