

Sport

# European soccer spotlight

PARIS, Oct 30: Fiorentina, Mallorca, Bordeaux and Bayern Munich will all be looking to consolidate their leads in continental Europe's major leagues at the weekend, reports AFP.

Fiorentina have had easy matches so far in Italy. Mallorca can thank lack of concentration from Real Madrid for their top spot in Spain, while Bordeaux so far have had the upper hand in their duel with Marseille in France.

Bayern Munich, with eight victories and a draw in nine games, look to be running away with the title in Germany.

**ITALY:** Fiorentina face a major test of their championship credentials this weekend when they take on Parma.

Fiorentina have won five games out of six in Serie A, but Giovanni Trapattoni's side have been helped by a favourable fixture list. The only title challengers they have faced so far, AS Roma, beat them 2-1. On Saturday, they travel to a Parma side who have yet to reach their full potential, but who have nine points on the board and are looking good for a place in the third round of the UEFA Cup.

Attacking potential could swing the game Fiorentina's way. Their Argentine skipper Gabriel Batistuta is the Serie A's top marksman, his eight goals amounting to twice as many as the entire Parma team put together.

Juventus will be without two key midfielders for the home game against Sampdoria — creative playmaker Zinedine Zidane and Dutch hitman Edgar Davids.

Both men start suspension after being sent off in the champions' 1-0 win over Inter Milan last weekend.

Alessandro del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi will play up front in a reshuffled midfield, where there could be room for Antonio Conte and Gianluca Pessotto.

Inter, still smarting from their defeats to Lazio and Juventus, need to avoid a third consecutive league loss against Bari.

Ronaldinho should be fit to lead the attack and Inter certainly have the quality players to take

all three points. Roberto Baggio hopes to return from a prolonged tendon injury and Chilean Ivan Zamorano should be fit after pulling a calf muscle in training.

Inter surrendered this match last season to South African Phil Masinga's late winner and there is nothing to rule out a possible repeat on Sunday afternoon.

AC Milan are away to Piacenza for a match which will also bring back some unhappy memories. Goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi had a dreadful game in this fixture two years ago and the humiliating defeat prompted the resignation within hours of then coach Oscar Tabarez.

**GERMANY:** Trailblazing Bayern Munich are virtually back to full strength for their Bundesliga match against Eintracht Frankfurt as they defend a five-point lead over local rivals 1860 Munich.

Bayern's storming German Cup win over Duisburg on Wednesday, when they scored four goals in the final half hour to win 4-2, was underpinned by Thursday's news that Lothar Matthaus, Thomas Strunz, Thomas Helmer and Mario Basler are all fit again.

Bayern, who have set a blistering pace with eight wins and a draw in the league so far, have Brazilian Giovane Elber missing on Saturday. The striker is suspended for a match after earning his fifth yellow card this season.

Elber has eight goals from his 10 matches but now coach Ottmar Hitzfeld wants to see more from his striking colleagues Ali Daei and Carsten Jancker.

Newly-promoted Eintracht, in 16th place and intent only on avoiding relegation this season,

ought to pose little trouble for Bayern, although the Munich side have a poor record in Eintracht's Wald Stadium with just five wins from 31 visits.

1860 Munich coach Werner Lorant is still waiting to hear from the German football federation what punishment he can expect for tongue-lashing a linesman last week.

His second-placed men host Wolfsburg, who are slowly improving after a bad start to the season. Forward Roy Praeger is finding the form which had him in the sights of former German coach Berti Vogts a year ago.

Praeger scored once himself Wednesday in Wolfsburg's 3-1 Cup win over Second Division Arminia Bielefeld and set up two other goals.

There could be plenty to cheer about on Friday when Kaiserslautern and Hansa Rostock meet. The pair possess the league's worst defences with both clubs having conceded 20 goals.

Kaiserslautern have lost their most reliable man in defence, Ciriaco Sforza, to a groin injury but trainer Otto Rehhagel has ruled out buying in replacements.

**SPAIN:** Mallorca, the surprise leaders in Spain, travel to Deportivo la Coruna as they attempt to defend their one-point lead over Real Madrid who travel to Extremadura.

Mallorca have the wind in their sails after their 4-0 victory over Atletico last week but they must beware overconfidence at the Riazor Stadium, where Deportivo have not lost a match nor let in a single goal this season.

Real Madrid, meanwhile, will be looking to snatch back the lead at second-from-bottom,

Extremadura having dropped a place after conceding a goal in the dying seconds in a 2-2 draw against Racing Santander last weekend.

Madrid's Yugoslavian striker Predrag Mijatovic said: "We may have lost points in the dying minutes through lack of concentration, but we are not going to give up."

Barcelona, in fourth spot two points behind Mallorca, host Real Sociedad during a patch where Brazilian Rivaldo, thinking of leaving the Catalan club, is at odds with Dutch coach Louis van Gaal.

The 1996 Spanish champions, Atletico Madrid, host promoted Alaves and will probably without the services of Kiko, who has been suffering muscular problems.

The real disappointment of the season — Real Betis, are bottom despite having expensive Brazilian Denilson in their ranks and will try to move up by winning their home match against Salamanca.

The match marks the return of former Spanish coach Javier Clemente, who has aroused a lot of interest at Betis where 15,000 people turned out to watch his first training session.

**FRANCE:** Felix-Bollaert, Parc des Princes, and the Meinau are three stadiums in France where good crowds are expected on Friday for the matches between Lens and Metz, Paris Saint Germain and Auxerre, and Strasbourg and Bordeaux respectively.

Champions Lens entertain last year's runners-up Metz, who have only just managed their first win. PSG are now in the swing of their new regime under disciplined coach Arthur Jorje, and leaders Bordeaux are looking for their third away victory.

## McEnroe, Borg to return to Wimbledon

LONDON, Oct 30: John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg, who fought out two stirring Wimbledon finals in 1980 and 1981, will revive memories of their great clashes when they return to London for the senior tournament here in December, reports AFP.

McEnroe, the tempestuous American left-hander and Borg, the unflappable Swede, were drawn on Thursday in the same four-man group with Argentinian Guillermo Vilas and Iranian Mansour Bahrami.

Mats Wilander of Sweden, Australian Pat Cash and Frenchmen Yannick Noah and Guy Forget will meet in the other.

The tournament starts on December 3 and each group will consist of round robin matches for the first three days with the highest scoring players in each group meeting in the final on Sunday, December 6.

## Numero uno Venus' goal

NEW YORK, Oct 30 (AP): Venus Williams put Lindsay Davenport on notice Thursday. She was what Davenport has — the No 1 ranking in women's tennis.

"In 1999, I would be going for the number one position," said Williams, who will be in the field with Davenport in next month's season-ending two million dollar Chase Championships at Madison Square Garden.

"Number one is something that I can achieve," said Williams, currently No 5. "That is my goal. It's everybody's goal, but not everybody can see it. I'm not far away from it and it is definitely attainable."

Williams, 18, feels she is improving and that she ought to move up in the rankings. "I don't see anything too complicated about it," she said. "My serve is largely my groundstrokes are nice and I would like to get more powerful at the net."

"There is always a place to get better in your game, you can't just get to a plateau, you have to keep rising."

Williams has played consistently well this year to climb into the top five, winning two tournaments including last month's inaugural Grand Slam Cup for the women.

But she has not enjoyed the spectacular results that marked last year's breakthrough rookie season on the WTA Tour, when she climbed nearly 200 spots on the rankings to break into the top 25 and reached the US Open final in her debut.

At this year's US Open, she lost to Davenport in the semifinals but said that wasn't a big setback since she felt fortunate to be even playing after being sidelined a few weeks earlier with a knee injury.

"The Open wasn't a disappointment," she said. "I was injured and Lindsay played well and she deserved it."

Davenport went on to win her first Grand Slam, defeating Martina Hingis in the final. Williams' troublesome left knee flared up again in last week's semifinal loss to Mary Pierce in Moscow. "I'm a little bit taller than most people at a younger age and my body has to catch up to my height."

Williams intends to rest the knee except for playing doubles in Philadelphia in two weeks before coming to Madison Square Garden for the Chase Championships.

Also qualified for the 16-player Chase Championships singles field are Davenport, Hingis, Monica Seles, Jana Novotna, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Anna Kournikova, Conchita Martinez and Patty Schnyder.

## S Korea's big plan

SEOUL, Oct 30: Seoul plans to create an East Asian tourism zone embracing South Korea, Japan and China ahead of the 2002 World Cup and amid a possible opening of isolated North Korea to visitors, reports AFP.

The scheme will be financed with a one billion dollar fund which will be fed from a three billion dollar loan from Japan won by President Kim Dae-Jung during a visit there this month, the Culture and Tourism Ministry said.

Should the cultural and historic assets of each country be offered within one tourist plan, it would create an enormous market competitiveness against resort areas in other parts of Asia, while appealing to Westerners visiting Asia, Minister Shin Mak-Kyun told journalists.

The scheme would involve a cruise boat service linking the three key countries of the sub-region which is expecting a massive influx of visitors for the 2002 soccer World Cup to be co-hosted by Japan and South Korea.

The scheme would also help the increase number of tourists to the region which would follow any opening by Stalinist North Korea to a tourism scheme currently under negotiations with a South Korean conglomerate.

The plan received a favourable response when Shin raised it with Chinese officials during a recent visit to Beijing, reports said, and Seoul is to take up the project with Japanese officials in a meeting next month.

Some 300 million dollars from the fund would go towards upgrading South Korea's tourism infrastructure including building new hotels and convention centres to add an extra 22,000 rooms here. Shin was quoted as saying.



German Boris Becker in action against Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia at the Eurocard Open on Oct 29. —AFP photo

# Pete indebted to Greg

STUTTGART, Oct 30: Greg Rusedski did Pete Sampras a favour by winning the battle of hard hitters to dethrone world number three Patrick Rafter out of the Eurocard Open on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Rusedski's 7-6, 6-7, 6-4 victory in a third round match was good news for Sampras, threatened by both Rafter and world number two Marcelo Rios of Chile in his bid to finish the year as number one for an unprecedented sixth consecutive time.

The top seed showed his determination to end another line in the record books by outclassing Czech Bohdan Ulihrach 6-3, 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals of the 2.45 million dollars event.

Sampras needed to advance to the last eight to make sure of still being the number one next Monday.

The fight to end 1998 at the top continues at the Paris Open next week and could be decided only at the season-ending ATP Tour World Championship for the world's top eight players, which starts on November 23 in Hanover.

Rios was granted an easy passage through to the quarterfinals when his opponent, 15th seed Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands, retired suffering from flu after losing the first set 6-2.

The Chilean, who briefly dethroned Sampras twice earlier in the year, now meets Russian

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the 11th seed.

After losing the first set 7-4 in a tie-break, 13th seed Rusedski held serve in the second set to force another tie-break, which he won 7-5 helped by two double faults from Rafter.

Rusedski, beaten by the Australian in the final of the 1997 US Open, went 4-1 up in the decider and then dropped serve before Rafter hit a forehand pass wide on match point.

Sampras was firmly in control against unseeded Ulihrach, showing no signs of the back pain which forced him out of the Lyon tournament before his quarterfinal last week.

"I felt comfortable and I played about as well as I could," said the Wimbledon champion, summing up a faultless performance.

Sampras goes on to meet fellow American Jan-Michael Gambill, who won two tie-breaks to upset Briton Tim Henman 7-6, 1-6, 7-6 on an outside court.

The unseeded Gambill, 50th in the ATP Tour rankings after climbing over 100 places this year, impressed against Henman, serving strongly and returning extremely well.

The 5,000 fans in the Stuttgart Hall were hoping for another sensation from Boris Becker, who had delighted them by dispatching French Open champion Carlos Moya in the previous round.

The semiretired German put up a brave challenge but Croatian Goran Ivanisevic showed more composure when it mat-

tered most, winning two tie-breaks for a 7-6, 7-6 victory.

Ivanisevic, the 14th seed, now faces Dutchman Richard Krajcek in an appetising clash between two of the most powerful players on the circuit.

Krajcek, seeded 11th, used booming serves and sharp volleys to down sixth seed Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-4 in just 58 minutes.

American Agassi, back in the top five this week for the first time in more than two years, could do very little to counter the Krajcek artillery.

## Boris collects a wildcard

PARIS, Oct 30: Boris Becker will be able to challenge for his fourth Paris Open title after receiving a wildcard on Thursday, reports AP.

Becker, 30, won the Paris Open in 1986, 1989 and 1992 but is now in semi-retirement, and is ranked only 67 in the world.

Organisers also gave wildcards to three French players, Jerome Golmard, Armand de Pasquale and Sebastien Grosjean.

Maguus Larsson of Sweden and Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi have withdrawn from the event through injury.

The world's top 15 players, including last year's champion Pete Sampras, are expected to compete in the \$1.25 million tournament, which starts Nov 2.



Nantes' midfielder Eric Carriere (R) and Monaco's Victor Ikpeba fight for the ball during their clash in Monaco on Oct 29. —AFP photo

# Chelsea confound Brian

LONDON, Oct 30: English Premier league club Chelsea said on Thursday they were prepared to let Brian Laudrup return to Denmark — but not yet, reports Reuters.

The 29-year-old attacking midfielder, who is keen to return to his homeland, had been reported to be set to move to FC Copenhagen.

But, with Chelsea midway through a European Cup Winners' Cup second round tie against the Danish team, they have put any move on hold.

Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson told a news conference at the club's Stamford Bridge ground: "He is not going anywhere for now. There is no deal — but that is not to say it won't happen in the future."

Laudrup, who joined Chelsea from Scotland's Rangers on a free transfer before the start of the season on a three-year contract, was reported to be unhappy with the selection policy at Chelsea and was disappointed at being on the side-

lines too often. But the Dane, who retired from the national team after shining in this year's World Cup, insisted on Thursday that this was not the case.

"It is purely down to myself, absolutely nothing to do with the rotation system (of selection) or my family being unsettled," he said. "I just felt after 10 years away from home, I wanted to be back in Denmark."

Laudrup said that he had been "slightly confused" about his future for more than a year. "You have times when your attitude to the game is not what you hope it should be," he said.

"It goes back to when I was at Rangers but I've done my best for Chelsea and will continue to do so."

Hutchinson said that the club had talked to the player about the situation even before signing him.

"We had a four-hour meeting in future before Brian went to France with the Danish team," he said. "Brian was mentally jaded but we decided to go ahead with the move."

"We don't want to contemplate losing such a world class

player but he is a very generous and open man and this is something he wants for his own happiness."

Hutchinson said that Laudrup would only be allowed to move to Denmark and that some transfer fee or compensation would be involved.

Laudrup, whose reputed 50,000 pounds (\$3,880 dollars) a week salary is one of the highest in the world game, said he was unconcerned about taking a large cut in income.

"If you're not entirely happy then money is not important and I've not been thinking about money," he said.

"A lot of players would not give up the contract I've got — which is a very good one — but I'm just showing what money's worth if you're not happy."

He added that a return home would not change his mind about playing for the Danish national team.

Cup Winners' Cup holders Chelsea needed a late equaliser to draw their home first leg with Copenhagen 1-1. The second leg takes place next Thursday.

## Tauziat, Pierce in last four

LUXEMBOURG, Oct 30: Top seeds Nathalie Tauziat and Mary Pierce remained on course for an all-French final at the \$64,250 dollars Seat Luxembourg Open after both won their quarterfinals in straight sets Thursday, reports AP.

Top-seeded Tauziat, who reached the Wimbledon final this year, had little trouble disposing of Germany's Anke Hueber, the No 6 seed, 6-3, 6-3.

Mary Pierce, coming off a tournament win in Moscow, swept past fifth-seeded Ai Sugiyama 6-3, 6-2. Pierce ranked 11th in the world will face Elena Likhovtseva in Friday's semifinal.

In an all-Russian quarterfinal, Likhovtseva, 27 in the WTA rankings, showed no mercy for Evgenia Koulikovskaya, 6-2, 6-0.

The No 3 seed Irina Spirlea of Romania became the biggest victim so far in the tournament. She went down to Silvia Farina in a marathon match. The Italian, No 24 in the world, won 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 to force a semifinal against Tauziat, ranked 17 places ahead of her.



AC Milan's George Weah (R) takes a tumble during the Italy Cup match against Lazio in Rome's Olympic Stadium on Oct 29. —AP/UNB photo

The Daily Star — Standard & Chartered

## CRICKET QUIZ '98

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- Only the residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in The Daily Star - Standard Chartered Cricket Quiz '98. The employees of Standard Chartered Bank, The Daily Star and their respective advertisement agencies shall not be eligible for the contest.
- All entries must be submitted in the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
- Entry forms have to be cut along the dotted lines.
- Participants will put a tick (✓) mark in the box alongside their chosen answer to each question.
- A participant may send more than one entry.
- Entry forms should be completed with a ballpoint pen.
- Name, address, father's name and other particulars of participants must be clearly written. Each entry form must also bear the signature of the participant and date.
- Incomplete entry forms will not be accepted.
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- Entries may be hand-delivered or posted to The Daily Star, House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1205.
- Entries will be placed in a sealed box for the draw to be held on the notified date in presence of invited guests and quiz participants, if any.
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Tick (✓) the correct answers

- Brian Lara hails from  Trinidad & Tobago  Barbados  Jamaica  India
- Bangladesh played their last ODI against  Kenya  Sri Lanka  India  60
- Overs per side in the 1975 World Cups was  50  55  60  14 runs
- Pakistan beat England in 1992 WC final by  22 runs  2 wickets  14 runs  1926
- In which year did S Africa attain Test status?  1926  1928  1954

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) ..... Age .....

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Write with a ballpoint pen in clear BLOCK letters.  
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