

Zhiyi accused of pushing ref

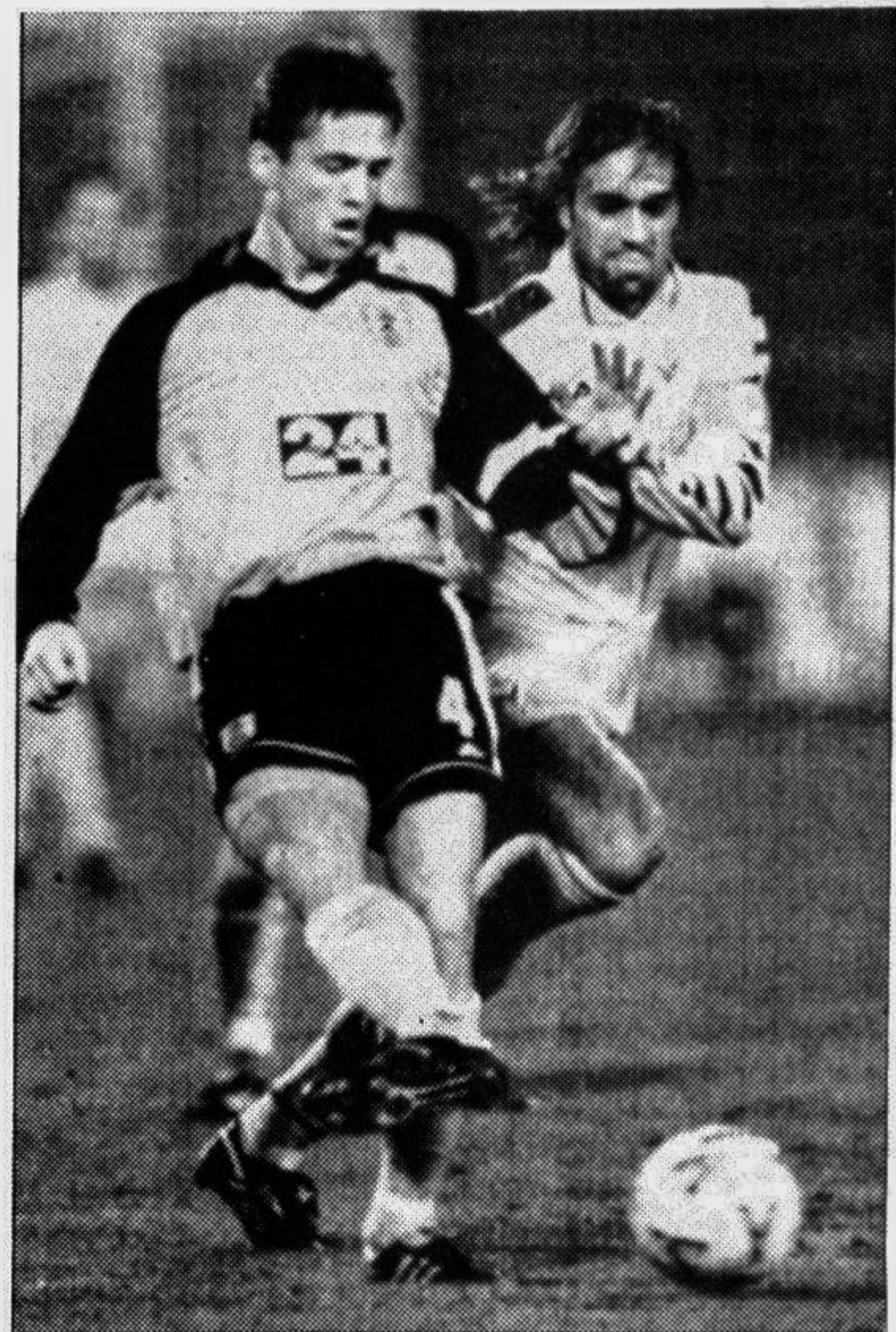
LONDON, Nov 4 (Reuters/Internet): Crystal Palace's Chinese international defender Fan Zhiyi has been accused of manhandling a referee during an English first division match.

UEFA's night of thrills and spills

PARIS, Nov 4 (AFP): British blues, French joy and Italian shame dominated an explosive UEFA Cup second round on Tuesday which saw the match abandoned in chaos and a string of players shown red cards.

France, the World Cup winners, saw all four of their sides through to the last 16, while Liverpool were the only British side to survive as three players were shown the red card in the final minute of their match with Valencia in Spain.

Italy's Fiorentina, meanwhile, already with a record of fan trouble, could face ejection from the tournament after their match with Swiss side Grasshopper Zurich was called off after a firework blast disrupted the game.



A Grasshoppers defender trying to mark Fiorentina's Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta (R) during their incident packed UEFA Cup second round second leg encounter at Salerno on November 3. —AP/UNB photo

Guivarch on road to Rangers

PARIS, Nov 4 (Reuters/Internet): Newcastle United's French World Cup striker Stephane Guivarch said in an interview published on Wednesday that he is set to sign for Glasgow Rangers.

The two clubs are in agreement over the transfer fee, 35 million francs (\$5.8 million). On that basis there's nothing to stop me signing," Guivarch told the French sports daily L'Equipe.

"Besides, I've given my agreement to Rangers," the former AJ Auxerre goalscorer said. "On Thursday I'll be in Glasgow with my agent... I'll watch the UEFA Cup match against (Bayer) Leverkusen. The following morning I'll have the medical visit and then sign."

Guivarch has been unsettled at Newcastle since former manager Kenny Dalglish resigned in August. The striker is not in new manager Raul Gullit's long term plans.

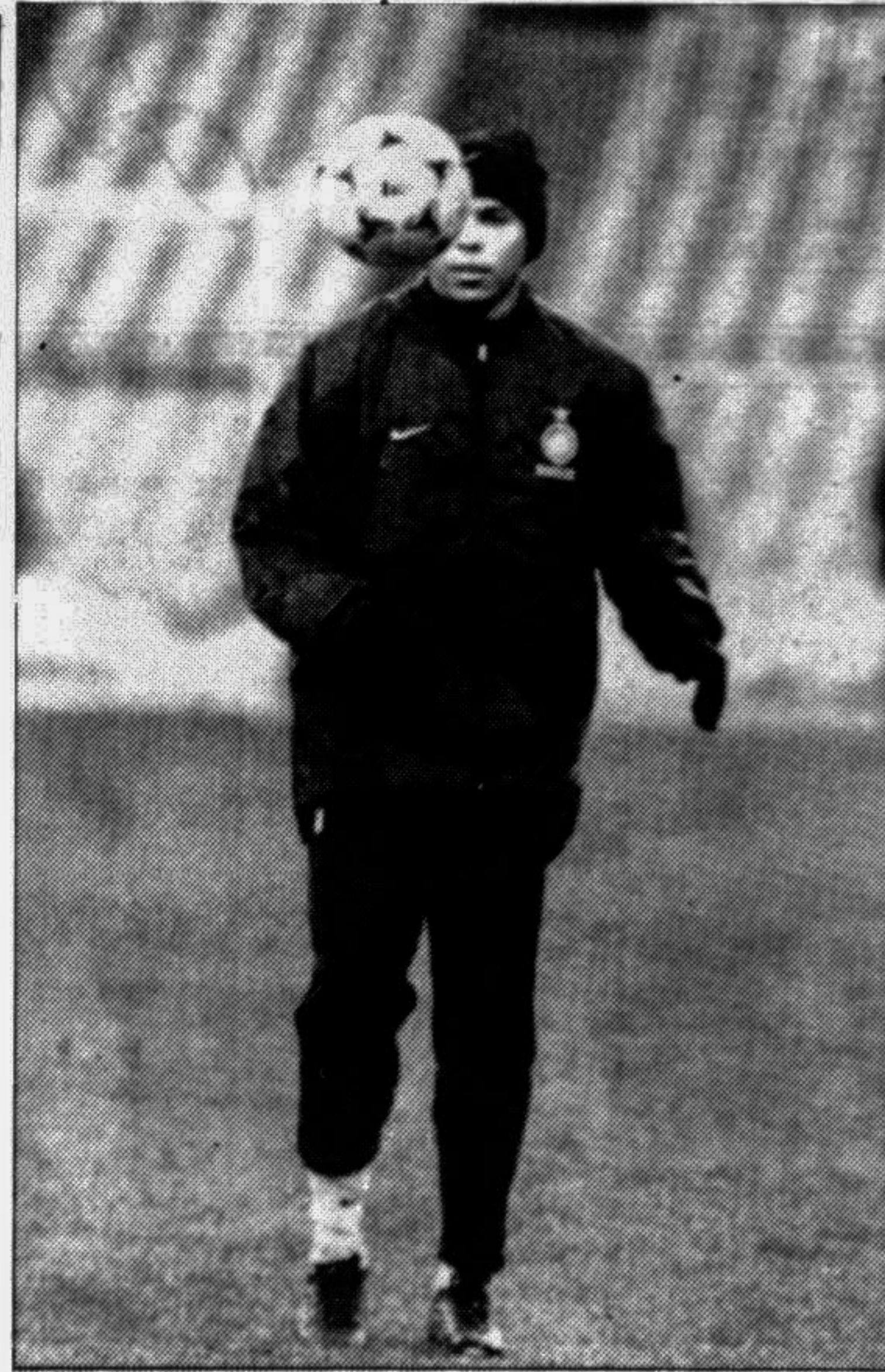
Having turned down Rangers for Newcastle in June before the World Cup finals in France, Guivarch will join his compatriot and former Auxerre team mate, goalkeeper Lionel Charbonnier at the Scottish club.

Guivarch did not manage to find the net for France as they won the World Cup in July despite being coach Aime Jacquet's first choice striker. He has only scored once in 13 internationals, on his debut against South Africa a year ago.

But he was selected on the basis of two successive seasons as top scorer in the French first division with Rennes in 1997 and Auxerre in 1998 when he scored 22 and 21 league goals respectively.

Guivarch said the chance of playing regularly again would help in his bid to reclaim his place in the France team.

He last played for his country in the 3-0 win over Brazil in the World Cup final on July 12. He has since been overlooked by Jacquet's successor Roger Lemerre for a friendly and three Euro 2000 qualifying matches.



PREPARING TO BEAT THE COLD: Superstar Ronaldo training at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow on November 3 ahead of his team Inter Milan's Champions' League match against local giants Spartak. —AP/UNB photo

Patriotic Fraser

ADELAIDE, Nov 4: England veteran Angus Fraser defended the tourists' West after they copped a blast for an uninspiring start to the Ashes cricket tour, reports AP.

England's batsmen failed to chase a target of 282 off 63 overs in the first-class match against Western Australia on Tuesday, drawing criticism from home captain Justin Langer.

"What's the point of playing a game if you don't play a game to win," Langer said after England made 192 for four. "I hope England play with the same attitude throughout the summer because if they do it will be long summer for them."

Fraser said he understood Langer's frustrations but that it more important for England to prepare itself for five Tests ahead rather than try to beat Western Australia.

"We have got to get out the game what we can and we did, all our top batsmen spent some time at the crease and all the bowlers had a good bowl," Fraser said Wednesday. "We could have recklessly chased the target and lose some 30 runs short and everyone would be saying here we go again."

Fraser said England wanted to win the leadup games but were entirely setting themselves for the first Test in Brisbane from Nov 20.

"We want to win the games we play before the Test match but we have to use them to our advantage," Fraser said. "It's not just up to us to have a game of cricket."

England play two more four-day games before the first Test, against South Australia in Adelaide from Saturday and against Queensland in Cairns from Nov 13.

Boro signs Schwarzer

MIDDLESBROUGH, Nov 4 (Reuters/Internet): Australian international goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer has signed a new six and a half year contract with Premier League Middlesbrough.

"It is the longest contract we have offered since I came to Middlesbrough," said manager Bryan Robson on Wednesday. "It shows how highly we rate Mark."

Schwarzer, 25, had been mentioned in the British media as a possible replacement for Manchester United's Danish international Peter Schmeichel.

The Sydney-born player was signed from first division Bradford City last year for 1.25 million pounds after stints in Germany with Dynamo Dresden and Kaiserslautern.

Christian struggling

MADRID, Nov 4: Real Madrid's Christian Panucci is doubtful for their Champions' League Group C match against Sturm Graz today after twisting his knee during training, reports Reuters.

The European champions' club doctor Alfonso Del Corral told Spanish media on Tuesday night that the Italian international defender had injured himself ten minutes before the end of a light training session at Sturm Graz's Arnold Schwarzenegger Stadium.

USTA retains Gullikson

WHILE PLAINS, New York, Nov 4: Tom Gullikson has been reappointed as US Davis Cup captain for 1999, the United States Tennis Association announced on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Gullikson, who has been captain since 1994, led the United States to its record 31st Davis Cup title in 1995, winning the trophy against Russia, and in 1997 guided the US team to the finals against Sweden.

In this year's Davis Cup campaign, a US team bereft of star players lost in the semifinals against visiting Italy overall. Gullikson's cup record is 12-4.

In addition to his role as Davis Cup captain, Gullikson will continue to serve as the USTA's director of coaching.

Italy's Fiorentina, meanwhile, already with a record of fan trouble, could face ejection from the tournament after their match with Swiss side Grasshopper Zurich was called off after a firework blast disrupted the game.

A match official, Philippe Flament of Belgium, fell to the ground and had to be stretchered off before being taken to hospital. He was treated for cuts, bruises and shock.

The blast also left Brazilian-born Belgian international Luis Oliveira of Fiorentina stunned. The match was called off with the Italians leading 2-1 at half-time.

Fiorentina are already serving a ban from playing at their home ground after crowd trouble in their 1997 European Cup Winners' Cup semifinal against Barcelona.

Their fate is due to be decided by a UEFA meeting today. They could face fines, a further suspension or possibly even being ordered to forfeit the match.

While France's fabulous four — Marseille, Monaco, Bordeaux and Lyon — all got through, British honour was saved by Liverpool — but at a cost.

With around ten minutes to go the Reds, who had drawn the home leg 0-0, were 1-0 behind and heading for the exit.

But they then scored two goals only to have Steve McManaman and Paul Ince sent off, along with Valencia's Amedeo Carboni, in the final minute.

The Italian appeared to hit McManaman, who retaliated. The hot-headed Ince then rushed into the melee and was also dismissed.

In a dramatic finale — almost seven minutes of extra time were played — Valencia pulled the score back to 2-2 when a Claudio Lopez free-kick hit a post, the ball bounced back to hit goalkeeper David James, and then spun over the line.

But it wasn't enough to rob Liverpool of their spot in the last 16.

Elsewhere, however, the British took a bashing.

English Premiership leaders Aston Villa crashed to a shock 3-1 home defeat to Celta Vigo and out of the tournament, even though the Spaniards had Rafael Berge sent off after 57 minutes.

Villa had held a 1-0 first advantage from the first leg but the visitors dominated the match. Juan Sanchez's opening goal was levelled by Stan Collyer.

France, however, were on a high.

Their most impressive performance came from Monaco, who crushed Graz AC of Austria 4-0 at home to advance 7-3 on aggregate.

Marseille, meanwhile, beat Germany's Werder Bremen 3-2 at home in another extraordinary match.

Marseille's goals came from Florian Maurice, Pierre Issa and Christophe Dugary but they were helped by yet another sending off, Warden ending with 10 men.

Lyon lost a man of their own playmaker Ali Benarbia set off in the closing minutes for a rash tackle, but still won 3-2 at home to former European champions Red Star Belgrade to go through 5-3 and Bordeaux

They still seemed set to escape with a 2-2 draw and victory on away goals via Fredi Bobic when Croatian Alex Ilic sealed a memorable win with a header five minutes from the end of extra-time.

Parma, meanwhile, the favourites for the UEFA crown, went about their business with no fuss at all, completing an easy 2-1 victory over Poland's Wisla Krakow and were joined by fellow Italians Bologna.

That success, was totally overshadowed by the excitement elsewhere.

One second-round, second-leg match remains still to be played with Rangers, 2-1 ahead on aggregate, hosting the last German survivors in Bayer Leverkusen in Glasgow on Thursday night.

Soccercide

KINSHASA, Nov 4 (Reuters/Internet): At least three people were killed and 18 injured in a riot at a football match in the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, local newspapers said on Wednesday.

Red Cross officials said a final figure for dead and injured had not been compiled.

"We are still waiting for a final report, perhaps today," one official told the news agency.

Police fired into the air, apparently to try to calm the crowds at Kinshasa's 100,000-seat, Chinese-built Martyrs' Stadium on Tuesday night after fans of a losing side started throwing objects onto the pitch.

The anger erupted after local V-Club scored a second time against the rival Daring Motembe-Pembe team, which had scored no goals.

Television footage showed hundreds of fans surging towards exits in panic at the shooting and rioting.

"Thanks to the television coverage we saw the forces of order going rampant and opening fire as if on a battlefield," said the daily Le Phare newspaper.

The match was cancelled and will be replayed.

Bergkamp's agony

LONDON, Nov 4: (Daily Mail/Internet): Dennis Bergkamp expects to be out of the Arsenal side for lengthy periods as he struggles through the season with a back injury.

Dutchman Bergkamp was left immobile and in agony when his back seized up after last Sunday's win at Blackburn. Manager Arsene Wenger revealed on Friday that his star striker had spent much of the week in the treatment room but still had no chance of being fit for Saturday's game at Coventry.

"He couldn't walk at all the day after the Blackburn match," said Wenger. "He has had a problem for some time with a flat back and stiff hamstrings. These things are interconnected — if one gets stiff, the other has to be more flexible."

It was a hamstring injury that ruled Bergkamp out of the last four games of last season, including the FA Cup Final, and the opening of Holland's World Cup campaign in France.

Wenger sees rest as the answer, rather than surgery, and that means he will have to ease Bergkamp through the season — with the same care that he is treating captain Tony Adams because of a similar complaint.

Despite the Bergkamp situation, Wenger will not be tempted to enter the bidding for Coventry's Dion Dublin. He made a 'discreet inquiry' for the England striker in the summer but now says: "Although I have the highest respect for Dion, I think prices have gone too high. I won't say what Coventry wanted, but it was too much. Anyway, I don't want to kill the chances of my younger players by buying big-name players."

Arsenal have dropped points against Charlton, Leicester, Sheffield Wednesday and Southampton, but moved into third place with their 2-1 win at Blackburn.

While Bergkamp is handled with care at Highbury, Paolo Tramezzani had to threaten Tottenham with legal action to be treated in the country of his choice.

Italian defender Tramezzani, signed in the summer from Piacenza for 1.3 million pounds, finally obtained permission from manager George Graham to undergo surgery in Belgium for his Achilles injury after five weeks of uncertainty.

He got the green light only after threatening a lawsuit, agreeing to foot the bill himself, and signing a form which removes all responsibility from the club.

He did not want me to go to Italy for the operation. I offered

and I can't believe this has happened to me," he said on Friday. "When I first got injured, David Pleat was in charge and he sent me to Italy to see Giovanni Monti, AC Milan's team physician. He told me I needed an operation right away. I returned to London on the day George Graham took over the club — and he insisted I had to get treatment in England."

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Harbhajan okayed

MUMBAI, Nov 4: The way has been cleared for young Punjab off-spinner Harbhajan Singh to be chosen to play for India again following his short visit to London to take corrective measures on his "suspect" bowling action at the behest of the International Cricket Council (ICC), reports PTI.

Indian Board (BCCI) secretary Jaywant Lele told reporters Tuesday that Harbhajan "can now be picked for the team by the national selectors now that he has undergone the corrective measures under the eyes of (former England off-spinner) Fred Titmus."

"The ICC had told us to send him for corrective measures after its throwing panel had found Harbhajan's action to be suspect. Now that he has done so, he is free to be picked again," Lele said.

Incidentally Harbhajan was included in the Board President's Eleven to take on the visiting West Indies A team here at the Cricket Club of India (CCI) from November 18-20. The squad would be led by Maharashtra all-rounder Hrishikesh Kankar.

Lele also added that the youngster's bowling action would once again be put under scrutiny during the match which is to be videotaped.

"The videotape would be sent to the ICC for its throwing panel to pass judgement on the corrected action," Lele added.

Gaudenzi in doubt

ROME, Nov 4: Italy's No. 1 player Andrea Gaudenzi is a questionable starter in the Davis Cup final against Sweden because of a sore shoulder, reports AP.

Paolo Bertolucci, captain of the Italian Davis Cup team, said Tuesday that Gaudenzi gave up two tournaments in Argentina and Chile later this month because of pains in his right shoulder, already operated twice.

Gaudenzi, who led Italy to an upset victory against the United States in the Davis Cup semifinals, is considered a key to a possible Italian victory in the December 4-6 final against Sweden, scheduled on clay at Milan's Forum December 4-6.

All eyes on Laudrup

LONDON, Nov 4 (Reuters/Internet): Brian Laudrup returns home on Thursday knowing a sizzling performance could bury his future teammates as Chelsea travel to Copenhagen for their European Cup Winners' Cup clash.

The Laudrup affair has added extra spice to this second round match as the defending champions arrive in the Danish capital with only a 1-1 first leg draw under their belts.

Laudrup signed for Chelsea from Scotland's Rangers on a three-year deal in the summer — but is already desperate to join FC Copenhagen.

Despite being on a reputed 50,000 pounds (\$82,630) a week, the 29-year-old attacking midfielder, who retired from international football after a successful World Cup, wants to return home. Chelsea have told him he can, but not yet.

Laudrup was one of the better Chelsea players in the first leg and, if he plays, should be the biggest threat to his compatriots. But with Copenhagen's hopes boosted by their Bjorne Guldback away goal a fortnight ago they are promising a fight.

A goalless draw would be enough to see the hosts go through and quash Chelsea's bid to become the first club to retain the cup.

Lazio enter their second round clash after a series of up-and-down results which have shaken their confidence.

The Italian side's two Yugoslav stars Sinisa Mihajlovic and Dejan Stankovic expect a stormy homecoming when they line up against Partizan Belgrade after the first leg in Rome ended 0-0.

Lazio came into the match on the back of a 1-0 away defeat by Salernitana on Sunday — the lowly side's first victory in the top flight in 50 years — a loss that leaves them in sixth place in Serie A, six points behind leaders Juventus.

Lazio are strengthened by the return of Croat striker Alen Boksic, who came on for the last half hour against Salernitana and who starts on the substitutes' bench against Partizan.

Portugal's Braga entertain Lokomotiv Moscow, of Russia, without a coach after firing Victor Oliveira on Monday.

Braga trail 3-1 from the first leg.

Injuries to key players have forced Besiktas coach John Toshack to overhaul his team for their match with Norway's Valerenga.

Nigerian striker Christopher Ochen will most likely take the place of countryman Daniel Amokachi, out with a hamstring injury. Ochen will partner Turkish national striker Oktay

Derelioglu in an attempt to overturn the 1-0 deficit from the first leg.

Valerenga are pinning their hopes on in-form striker John Carew, 19, and the magic of former Norwegian soccer coach Egil Olsen, who took over in August and lifted Valerenga from bottom of the 14-strong elite division to seventh.

Mallorca will miss midfielder Jovan Stankovic who is suspended for the game against Genk. Ariel Ibagaza is expected to replace Stankovic and play his first game for nearly two months after a foot injury.

Otherwise Mallorca coach Hector Cuper is expected to name an unchanged side to that which drew 1-1 at Deportivo Coruna in the Spanish league on Sunday.

Argentine striker Leo Bagnini is almost certain to get the nod over his compatriot Chupa Lopez to partner Dani Garcia at the front. The teams are locked at 1-1 after the first leg.

Bulgaria's Varteks Varazdin will be at full strength ahead of their return match against Dutch side Heerenveen as they try to overturn the 2-1 away loss from the first leg.

Other ties see Apollon Limassol try to overturn a 3-2 first leg away defeat to Panionios Athens and Israel's Maccabi Haifa host Austria's Ried, trailing 2-1.



Real Betis' Denilson (L) races past a Willem II player in their UEFA Cup encounter on November 3. —AP/UNB photo

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

BRIDGE

By Dr A K Sayeedul Huq

SOUTH CORRECTLY ABANDONED THE SLAM IDEA!

(Hand # 133)

North	South (D)
♠ A 10	♠ S K Q 2
♥ H Q 4	♥ H 10 8 7 2
♦ C K Q 9 7 6	♦ D A J 10 2
♣ C 9 8 6 5	♣ C Q J 10 7 3 2

West: ♠ S 9 6 5 4 3, ♥ H K J 9 6, ♦ D 5 4 3, ♣ C 4

East: ♠ S J 8 7, ♥ H A 5 3, ♦ D 8, ♣ C Q J 10 7 3 2

Bidding: Neither side was vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1 Diamond*	Pass	1 No Trump**	Pass
2 No Trumps	Pass	4 Diamonds	Pass
4 No Trumps	Pass	5 Diamonds	Pass
Pass	Pass		

* Artificial opening
** Artificial, showing 10-12 HCP.

With 17 HCP South opened artificially one Diamond indicating the absence of a five-card major. North showed 10-12 HCP by the bidding system followed by the partnership. South was interested to play No Trumps but North jumped 4 Diamonds, an unnecessary jump. If he did bid 3 Diamonds, partner could bid game in No Trumps which was easy to make. South became interested in a slam after North's double-raise in Diamonds. However, when partner showed one Ace, he settled for a game contract in Diamonds.

THE PLAY

Against the five Diamonds, West led his singleton Club Four, East played 10 and the declarer took the trick with the King. Next he cashed the Ace and King of Diamonds and when East showed out in the second round, he cash Ace, King and Queen of Spades slipping a small Heart from dummy. The declarer then played a small Heart toward the Queen in the dummy. West went up with the King and played his last Diamond. The declarer won the trick in his hand ruffed a Heart in the dummy, returned to his hand with the Club King and cross-ruffed Club and Heart to make 11 tricks.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	dispense with it	DOWN	laughs
1 Coin toss	40 Label cohort	1 Roach or loach	16 Adam's grandson
5 Vanna's shade	41 Paint	2 Bound along	20 Lapdog, for short
8 Agile	43 Complete	3 Stressful type: abbr.	23 Khan title
12 Title	45 Summon	4 Wore a tut	24 — Angeles
13 — Baba	47 Commits a deadly sin	5 They're on all night	27 Pouter's protrusion
14 Hodge-podge	51 Racetrack movie	6 In the manner of	29 Brutus' breakfast
15 Recent	52 Postprandial toast	7 Track official	30 One of Louisa's girls
17 You can get a lift from it	54 Show chutzpah	8 Temporary stay	32 Nails the ball-carrier
18 Montana's capital	55 Wet wiggler	9 Setting setting	34 Shows
19 Eras	56 Infamous fiddler	10 High-calorie	37 Favorable vote
21 Mr. DelLuise	57 Calls a halt to	11 Hearty	39 Galvanization stuff
22 Profligate	58 Sls.		42 Madison's roommate
23 TV alien	59 Jog		44 Occurrence
26 Bando of baseball			45 Portend
28 House-husband, maybe			46 Writer
31 Rocky Mountain resident			48 Tortoise
33 Round Table address			49 Continental prefix
35 Church area			50 Lady Macbeth's problem
36 Song-writers' org.			53 Flushed
38 Some			

Solution time: 21 mins.

HOBO ALL CASH
GUST LIE OLEO
ABST LIE SLICK
KEY WAT BATTLE
GEN BEA
SOPOR QUARTER
AIRS PEG IONA
CLOTHED SIGRAM
AAA BOA
MARRI GIO OPT
EMIR GOSTUMER
NICE IDS MIRA
USED DAY ATTY

Yesterday's answer
38 Some

CRYPTOQUIP

O Z N V G V I P P J B U M Z N ' G
K Z R E Z U J C P P Q J I J C K Q
U X R E V M I J O B X P P J F
Z F U C F G E C E J B ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I TRULY HOPE I'M FINALLY COMING TO THE POINT OF UNDERSTANDING DECIMALS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals P

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.