

Israel rely on youngsters

JERUSALEM, Nov 15 (Reuters/Internet): Maccabi Haifa youngsters Yossi Benayoun and Shuki Nagar have received a late call-up for the Israel squad which faces Portugal in a friendly near Lisbon on Wednesday.

Israel coach Shlomo Scharf on Saturday night named 18-year-old Benayoun and Nagar, 21, in place of striker Alon Mizrahi, whose daughter is in hospital, and Walid Bdir, who was injured playing for Hapoel Petah Tikva in a league match on Saturday.

Vasco beat DC United

WASHINGTON, Nov 15: Felipe's goal in the 59th minute gave the Brazilian club Vasco da Gama a 1-0 victory over DC United in the first leg of the Interamerican Cup, reports AP.

United, the first US team ever to play in the annual two-leg championship between the CONCACAF and South American confederations, capitalise on several good scoring chances in Saturday night's game.

A crowd of 26,216 — the largest at RFK Stadium this season — turned out for United coach Bruce Arena's final home game. Arena, recently named coach of the US national team, ends his three-year tenure with the Interamerican Cup.

Vasco's home leg is scheduled for December 5 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. United were playing for the first time since losing to the Chicago Fire October 25 in the US Major League Soccer championship game. DC captured the first ever MLS title in 1996 and 1997.

The Rio de Janeiro club was playing its fourth game in 10 days and didn't arrive in Washington until Friday afternoon after playing Thursday night in Brazil.

Vasco was scheduled to leave Washington at 3 am Sunday for a 16-hour flight to Japan where they will train for the current World Club Championship, the Toyota Cup.

After meeting European Cup winners Real Madrid, Vasco will fly back to the United States for the Interamerican Cup second leg.

Felipe, a 21-year-old rising star on the Brazilian national team, scored Saturday's only goal on a brilliant left-footed shot from about 25 metres out.

United missed a great opportunity in the first half when Roy Lassiter couldn't muster anything on an open shot from 10 metres.

Bitter twist to rivalry in Rome

ROME, Nov 15: (Reuters/Internet): Allegations by Roma coach Zdenek Zeman of doping practices at Juventus have given an acrimonious twist to the traditional rivalry between the two clubs which resumes in Italy's Serie A on Sunday.

Their clash in Rome marks the first time they have met since Czech Zeman's allegations last July which prompted Juventus angrily rejected, and subsequently started a libel action against the Roma coach.

Zeman, for his part, has also initiated libel proceedings against past and present Juventus players, Gianluca Vialli and Alessandro Del Piero, who both issued outspoken criticisms of his original allegations.

Zeman has tried to ease the pre-match tension saying: "Let's just stick to football and not go on about personal feuds...Judges and magistrates can sort out the other business..."

Signs of a tense build-up are evident from the fact that Juventus coach Marcello Lippi has opted for a press blackout until after the match.



Arsenal's Patrick Vieira (L) skips past a sliding tackle by Spurs' Chris Armstrong during their London derby on Nov 14. — AFP photo

Liverpool slide continues

LONDON, Nov 15: (Reuters/Internet): Dion Dublin bagged a hat-trick as English Premier League leaders Arsenal trounced tallenders Southampton 4-1 on Saturday and went three points clear of nearest rivals Manchester United, reports Reuters.

None of the top six before Saturday's matches lost but Liverpool's French manager Gerard Houllier had a nightmare at Anfield on his debut as solo boss after the departure on Thursday of job-sharing partner Roy Evans.

Liverpool took the lead and then succumbed 3-1 to Leeds United, dropping one place to 12th.

Dutchman Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink scored twice for Leeds, who moved fifth after Liverpool went ahead through a 68th minute Robbie Fowler penalty.

Dublin, who has now scored five goals in two games for Villa, had been denied a hat-trick by an offside call on his debut last weekend but he made no mistake at the Dell.

The former Coventry City stalwart scored his opener in the third minute, and then followed it up with strikes in the 56th and 85th to help the former European champions to their best ever start to a season, unbeaten in 12 games.

Southampton had equalised in the 53rd minute through Matthew Le Tissier and could have gone ahead moments later when Villa's Ugo Ehiogu headed against his own crossbar.

"It looked comfortable enough but for long periods Southampton pinned us back," said manager John Gregory.

Paul Scholes scored twice as Manchester United leapfrogged Arsenal into second place with a 3-2 win at home to a fighting Blackburn Rovers, who had captain Tim Sherwood sent off in the 47th minute.

Struggling Blackburn scored both their goals after Sherwood had been shown the red card for apparently elbowing David Beckham in an off the ball incident.

Andrei repays Rangers

GLASGOW, Nov 15: (Reuters/Internet): Rangers' record signing Andrei Kanchelskis helped to repay some of his fee by striking the late goal which gave his side a 2-1 victory over Aberdeen in the Scottish premier league on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The Russian international, who was signed from Italy's Fiorentina for 5.5 million pounds (9.16 million dollars) during the summer, stretched Rangers' lead over Kilmarnock at the top to six points with 30 points from 14 games.

Kilmarnock drew 1-1 at Dundee and are on 24 points while third-placed Celtic lost 2-1 at St Johnstone.

Dick Advocaat's team looked to be heading for a draw at Ibrox after Aberdeen's Scotland international Eoin Jess equalized in the 56th minute, shooting past Rangers goalkeeper Antti Niemi after controlling the ball on his chest.

Giovanni van Bronckhorst had put Rangers in front after just eight minutes, taking a pass from Joerg Albertz before firing in a left foot shot.

Antler clinch J-League 2nd stage

TOKYO, Nov 15: Jubilo Antlers wasted little time in clinching the J-League second-stage crown on Saturday as they beat Vissel Kobe 4-1, reports Reuters.

Brazilian Jorginho lead the charge as he scored with a header in the second minute of play as Antlers went up 3-0 by the 12th minute. Antlers needed a victory to clinch the win and the championship playoff series with first-stage winners Jubilo Iwata.

Jubilo rallied from a 4-2 deficit to beat Gamba Osaka 5-4. The league's top scorer Masashi Nakayama scored his 36th and 37th goals of the season in the game while Brazilian Dunga controlled the flow of the action.

The Jubilo Antlers playoff is a repeat of last year's championship showdown, which Antlers won. The first match of the series will be played next Saturday at Tokyo's National Stadium while the second game will be played at Kashima on November 28.

In all of the final matches of the second-stage, players took to the field with flags of the soon-to-be eliminated franchise Yokohama Flugels. The team's sponsors said they could not afford to keep the franchise so they will merge the team with cross-town rival Yokohama Marinos.

Despite their imminent demise, Flugels beat Consadole Sapporo 4-1 with Takayuki Hoshida scoring twice in the win.

In other action, up and coming Urawa Reds took the third spot in the J-League standings as they beat Nagoya Grampus Eight 2-1, while midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura scored a hat-trick as Margina beat Bellmare Hiratsuka 4-2.

Brazilian winger Alessandro Dos Santos scored a hat-trick as a Shimizu S-Pulse thrashed lowly JEF United Ichihara 4-1.

Banned for brawling

MOSCOW, Nov 15: (Reuters/Internet): Four players received five-match bans on Thursday after a full-blown fistfight during a Russian cup match last week.

The Russian league's disciplinary committee handed Zhemchuzhina Sochi's German Kutarba, Konstantin Kovalenko and Artashes Kalaidzhian as well as Alexander Babiy of Zenit St Petersburg the suspensions for their role in the brawl.

Zenit's Russian international Alexei Igonin, who was sent off in the same fourth round match which Zenit won 4-1, received a three-game ban.

Each club was fined 10,000 roubles (\$571.4) for the incident. Hosts Zhemchuzhina will pay an additional fine for fan violence.

Anelka also had a powerful volley turned away just before halftime and Marc Overmars was thwarted by a great save from Baardsen, who rushed out of goal to smother his shot with his legs in the 69th minute.

The result was a repeat of the 0-0 draw at Highbury last season and means that Arsenal have only lost once to Spurs at home in their last 14 meetings.

Vlaovic to bid Valencia bye?

MADRID, Nov 15: (Reuters/Internet): Croatian World Cup striker Goran Vlaovic is ready to leave Valencia, the Spanish media reported on Thursday.

Vlaovic underwent surgery for a groin injury in August. He feels he is now fit to return to action but is being ignored by Valencia coach Claudio Ranieri after playing just seven minutes of league soccer this season.

"I feel very bad about this. If this does not change then I cannot carry on here because I will lose a lot," Vlaovic was quoted as saying in the Spanish sports daily Marca.

The striker played in all seven of Croatia's games at France '98 and scored in their memorable 3-0 quarterfinal victory over Germany.

Anelka also had a powerful volley turned away just before halftime and Marc Overmars was thwarted by a great save from Baardsen, who rushed out of goal to smother his shot with his legs in the 69th minute.

The result was a repeat of the 0-0 draw at Highbury last season and means that Arsenal have only lost once to Spurs at home in their last 14 meetings.

Newcastle drew 1-1 with Sheffield Wednesday but, in an ominous moment for England fans, striker Alan Shearer did not come out for the second half at St James' after picking up a suspected hamstring injury.

Chelsea, with a game in hand over Villa and United, moved up to fourth with a 3-0 win at home to Wimbledon.

Manchester United's Nicky Butt is sent flying by Blackburn's Stephane Henchoz on Nov 14. — AP/UNB photo

Bayern owe Elber one



BONN, Nov 15: A brilliant performance by Brazilian striker Elber helped German champions Bayern Munich underline their supremacy by taming VfB Stuttgart 2-0 on Saturday, reports Reuters.

A fine pass by Elber allowed midfielder Stefan Effenberg to put the home side in front by beating goalkeeper Franz Wohlfahrt from close range three minutes into the second half.

Elber then set up Iranian striker Ali Daei, who raced into the box unchallenged to seal Bayern's victory in the dying moments.

The gifted Brazilian, fined by his bosses this week for collecting too many yellow cards, was outstanding and deserved a goal himself.

He was deprived one in the 38th minute for an offside which did not look obvious on a television replay. In the 49th minute he shouted for a penalty after being brought down in the box by Stuttgart defender Timo Rost.

Bayern, eager to recapture the title they lost to Kaiserslautern last May, are five points clear of second placed Bayer Leverkusen with a game in hand.

"We controlled the game and earned plenty of clear chances," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld. "We should have taken the lead earlier but I'm satisfied with both the result and the way we achieved it."

Leverkusen were equally impressive, scoring three times in the opening 21 minutes to crush Nuremberg 3-0.

Their hero was Dutch striker Erik Meijer, who showed his side the way by opening the scoring in the fifth minute. Then he set up Brazilian Emerson and fellow midfielder Carsten Ramelow for Leverkusen's other goals in the 15th and 21st minutes respectively.

"After going 3-0 up, the players took it easy but I'm not complaining," said Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum. "We scored plenty of goals and did not concede any. That's perfect."

Borussia Dortmund, recovering from a disastrous start to the season, boosted their morale with a 3-0 victory over Schalke 04 in a tense Ruhr Valley derby.

Dutch defender Alfred Nijhuis showed the composure of a seasoned striker to give Dortmund the lead after 14 minutes.

Seconds before the break, the home side earned a penalty for a foul by Dutch defender Marco van Hoogdalem on Dortmund's Bosnian midfielder Serbi Barabarez, midfielder Thomas Haessler, back in the first team after several unhappy weeks on the bench, converted it.

Germany midfielder Andreas Mueller put the issue beyond doubt seven minutes from time.

Dortmund, who have been through hard times since their 1997 European Cup triumph, moved sixth.

"We deserved to win, even if we were lucky to do it by 3-0," said Dortmund coach Michael Skibbe. "It was an interesting, hard-fought derby."

Schalke, 1997 UEFA Cup champions, have now gone seven matches without victory and are a miserable 15th.

Lens stoop to Dugarry



PARIS, Nov 15: Christophe Dugarry earned French league leaders Olympique Marseille a 1-0 home victory over reigning champions Lens for their eighth consecutive win to widen the gap to four points at the top of the table on Saturday, reports AFP.

Marseille benefitted from a poor display by second-placed Bordeaux who only managed a goalless draw at home to third from bottom Sochaux. The Parc Lescure crowd whistled their displeasure at the end of the match.

Third-placed Rennes, coached by former Paris Saint-Germain defender Paul Le Guen, made no ground on the leading two, managing an unimpressive 0-0 draw at home to Lyon.

Marseille welcomed back central defender Laurent Blanc into the side after he was rested for the 3-2 win at Nancy on Tuesday. Striker Fabrizio Ravanelli, who has a slight toe injury, was also given a sitting role, at the expense of home crowd favourite Titi Camera.

Juventus coach Marcello Lippi was in the Stade Velodrome crowd, reportedly looking at Lens striker Tony Vairelles and Ravanelli as possible replacements for the injured Alessandro Del Piero.

Eric Roy, back after three weeks out with a leg injury, delivered a long ball from midfield to Dugarry, who beat the offside trap and flicked it past keeper Guillaume Warmuz with

the outside of his right boot in the 31st minute for the winner.

Lens were playing with just 10 men when the goal was scored as Eric Sykora was being treated on the side of the pitch.

In the second half, Pascal Nouma of Lens hit the crossbar and moments later, Marseille's Robert Pires was right through with only the 'keeper to beat, but somehow Warmuz managed to block the ball away from point blank range.

Coach Roland Courbis brought on midfielder Daniel Bravo for Ravanelli and Camara was also brought on for Dugarry.

Stephane Porato, now the undisputed number one 'keeper at Marseille following the departure of Germany's Andreas Koke, had a good match.

Monaco suffered their fifth defeat of the season as they slipped up 3-1 at Bastia.

Bastia opened the scoring far post in the 57th minute, through Poland's Piotr Swierczewski in the 19th minute but Monaco pulled a goal back after the break. Ludovic Guilly, racing into the area and fed by a cross from the left, fired home at the net.

Pierre Laurent fired over a cross from the right and Croatian defender Muhamed Konjic clumsily chested the ball into Andre's Path. As he fell over, Backwards, Andre fired a left-footed, overhead kick into the net.

Frederic Neer hit Bastia's third in the 73rd minute.

Didier Thimothee Hit two goals in Montpellier's 3-0 victory over Auxerre, finding the net in the closing seconds of the first half and hitting another from six metres out in the 78th minute.

Former Marseille and Saint-Germain striker Xavier Gravelaine scored the other goal with half an hour to go.

Bruno Rodriguez with his back to goal, turned to lob Nantes 'keeper Mickael Landreau to give Metz a 1-0 victory.

Tony Cascarino, called back to Nancy after not observing the five-day rule for international matches, scored the opener in their 1-1 draw at Toulouse. Cascarino will now join up with the Republic of Ireland party for their rearranged Euro 2000 qualifier in Yugoslavia on Wednesday.

Irish football chiefs calling for action

DUBLIN, Nov 15: (Reuters/Internet): Irish football chiefs are to ask English clubs not to play Irish players this weekend after FIFA admitted it had made a mistake.

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) said on Friday FIFA had admitted it made a mistake in allowing English clubs to field Irish players this weekend, before the Ireland versus Yugoslavia match on Wednesday.

But FIFA has said it is too late to take action.



Members of the Zimbabwe cricket team on arrival in Pakistan yesterday. The Zimbabweans will play three one-day internationals and three Test. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Gospels' need 5 Partner Kazan 23 Mealtime conversation 24 Admitting a draft 26 Mid-June honoree 27 Quindorian note 28 Entertainer Adams 29 Act 31 Seizes suddenly 34 DDE's command 35 Light shade 37 Clear the tables 38 Mayberry moppel 39 Jodie Foster movie 40 Mame's "Speed-the-" 41 Photog's choice 44 Very enthusiastic 45 Coach Par-seghian 46 Cap 47 Indispensable 48 Under the chapters 7 Lubricant 8 Played a draft 9 Phone interler-ance 10 "One life to lose" 11 NYSE counter-part 12 MGM co-founder 50 Pennsylv-ania port 51 Wapiti 52 Sunday 53 Tramp's love 11 Elizabeth 1 Pacino's namesakes 16 Anderson's 34 DDE's command 21 Poet's concern 3 Msters transit... 21 Artist Chagall 22 Director 25 Astronaut 4 Locals call it Sverige 22 Director 30 Tease 31 Dieter's entree 32 Lemon drink 33 Its days are numbered 35 Ballet bend 36 Greek vowels 37 Used the oven 38 Winning 40 Further-more 42 Shell-game

Cryptogram puzzle grid with numbers 1-53 and letters Y J L X V P M Y Z L X O Z L Z O Y F V P T Z A V F Y J M V F Y J L D V V B R Y Y J L X M V V B L Z T O D M R M O R A .

CRYPTOQUIP Y J L X V P M Y Z L X O Z L Z O Y F V P T Z A V F Y J M V F Y J L D V V B R Y Y J L X M V V B L Z T O D M R M O R A . Yesterday's Cryptquip: I'D THINK FOR CERTAIN THAT HENS REALLY LIKE LAYER CAKE FOR DESSERT.

Today's Cryptquip clue: X equals C. The Cryptquip 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.