

Husband's, daughter's homage to Flo-Jo

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Nov 23 (Reuters/Internet): Husband and eight-year-old daughter of Florence Griffith Joyner led the world of track and field Sunday in paying tribute to the late American sprint star.

Two months after Griffith Joyner died at the age of 38, husband Al Joyner and daughter Mary Ruth Joyner accepted a special award at the annual gala of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

A brief documentary of Flo-Jo's life and career, including interviews with her and footage of her gold medal-winning performances in the 100 and 200 metres at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, was broadcast at the ceremony.

Then Joyner walked on stage hand-in-hand with his daughter, who was clutching a big teddy bear.

The one thing that made Florence so great was her class. She was a world-class person, a world-class mother and, most of all, a world-class friend," Joyner said, struggling to keep his composure.

Among those in the audience were Griffith Joyner's former coach, Bob Kersee, and Kersee's wife, Jackie Joyner Kersee.

It was the most poignant moment on a night when Marion Jones -- the second fastest sprinter in history behind Griffith Joyner -- and Ethiopian distance runner Haile Gebrselassie were honored as athletes of the year, and Joyner Kersee received a lifetime achievement award.

Turkish PM's assurance

ANKARA, Nov 23: Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz has guaranteed the safety of prisoners of Juventus of Turin, who fear they may be attacked during an upcoming match in Turkey because of the country's political tensions with Italy, reports AP.

The Italians are scheduled to play a Champions League match against Galatasaray on Wednesday in Istanbul. But some Juventus players have said they fear for their lives by coming to Turkey, where thousands of people have taken to the streets over the past week to protest Italy's refusal to extradite a Kurdish leader for trial as a terrorist.

The governing body of European soccer, UEFA, was scheduled to announce Monday when and where the game would be played.

"Every kind of guarantee has been given," Yilmaz told private ATV television late Sunday. "We are also considering to ban demonstrations in Istanbul until the match."

Hilmaz said that each fan would be searched by police before entering the Ali Sami Yen stadium. But still he warned against possible provocations.

"A minor incident could harm our cause," Yilmaz said. "Don't throw even one coin into the court. You can hang banners or shout slogans."

Turkey wants to try Abdullah Ocalan for leading the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, which has been waging a guerilla war for autonomy in Turkey's southeast. The conflict has claimed some 37,000 lives. Italy has refused to extradite Ocalan, saying Italian law does not allow extradition if the suspect could face execution.

Liverpool shift into UEFA gear



PARIS, Nov 23 (AFP/Internet): An impressive 4-2 Premiership win at previously unbeaten Aston Villa on Saturday could be just the springboard Liverpool need to instil fear into the continent they once ruled ahead of Tuesday's UEFA Cup showdown at Celta Vigo.

Yet they cannot afford to take the Spaniards lightly. Vigo, who have never won a trophy in their 75-year history, would once have been lambs to an Anfield slaughter in the days when an all-conquering Liverpool charged to four European Cups and two UEFA Cups in the 1970s and 1980s.

But the roles could be reversed. Things are not what they once were on Merseyside. The departure of Roy Evans as joint-coach earlier this month, leaving Frenchman Gerald Houllier in sole command, followed a string of poor results that left Liverpool mired in the bottom half of the table.

Houllier now has to pit his wits against the ace in Vigo's pack -- 37-year-old coach Victor Fernandez.

Fernandez has never lost to an English club in Europe and his team last month produced one of the biggest upsets in the competition so far by knocking out Villa despite losing at home.

As Zaragoza coach three years ago, Fernandez also led his team to triumph over English Premiership opposition when the Spanish side beat Chelsea and Arsenal on their way to lifting the Cup Winners' Cup.

Fernandez's arrival at Vigo has coincided with a complete change in profile. Earlier this month they beat Real Madrid away for the first time in 50 years and suddenly the provincial club has blossomed into genuine title contenders.

Vigo possess talent in abundance. Two of their most eye-catching stars are Russian veterans Alexander Mostovoi and Valery Karpin. While Spanish international Miguel Angel Salgado, reputedly a Manchester United target, has become the idol of the home fans and French mid-

fielder Claude Makelele, a league title winner in France with Nantes three years ago, is another potential match-winner.

Much will hinge on how much last weekend's showings by the two sides can be taken as a pointer to their true ability. For while Liverpool were putting Villa to the sword for only their second in nine league games, Vigo were crashing to their first league defeat of the season -- a 2-0 loss at lowly Alaves.

Experienced German striker Karlheinz Riedle, a European Cup winner with Dortmund two seasons ago could prove to be a trump card, although he may start on the bench following Robbie Fowler's hat-trick on Saturday and the continuing progress of England partner Michael Owen.

Elsewhere, Monaco and France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez is a man with a mission as his side host league leaders Marseille in an attractive all-French local derby encounter.

World Cup star Barthez has a special reason for wanting to win this one as he helped Marseille win the European Cup in 1993 prior to the match-fixing scandal which tore the club apart and precipitated his departure to Monaco.

Monaco lost for the first time at home last week to Bordeaux and that has hurt morale, while their recent away form has been dreadful.

"We must get a grip on things and take full responsibility for what is going wrong," said the 27-year-old Barthez.

Monaco libero Franck Dumas and Croatian striker Robert Spehar are both battling injury but should be fit -- if only for the bench.

Apart from the absence of Fabrizio Ravanelli, who has a fractured toe, Marseille have no serious injury worries and French World Cup striker Christophe Dugary says he and his teammates welcome the healthy competition for places at the club.

"At Barcelona, the reserves got fed up and made their feelings known," said Dugary, who said that similar problems existed during his brief spell at AC Milan.

"At Marseille being on the bench isn't a punishment. Nobody feels left out," Dugary added.

"Although Marseille lost their first league match of the campaign on Thursday at Lyon, they remain a class above the rest that the French league has to offer.

The 1996 finalists Bordeaux, who along with Lyon complete the French quartet of survivors, got the luck of the draw when Fiorentina were expelled from the competition by UEFA and they face Swiss side Grasshopper Zurich instead.

Fiorentina were virtually sure of victory while playing Grasshopper Zurich at the neutral ground of Salernitana in the second round of the UEFA Cup on November 3 when a fireworks was thrown onto the pitch injuring a match official.

UEFA ruled Grasshopper should be awarded the tie, even though Fiorentina denied their fans were to blame.

However, Italian interest is still very much alive with Parma travelling to Glasgow Rangers, reeling from a 5-1 drubbing at bitter rivals Celtic on Saturday.

Parma coach Alberto Malesani will be taking a decimated team to Ibrox.

Malesani will be without two top strikers in Italian international Enrico Chiesa, who pulled a muscle over the weekend, and Colombian ace Faustino Asprilla, still convalescing after knee surgery. A third striker, Argentinian Abel Balbo, is recovering from flu.

In addition, international midfielder Diego Fuser, who scored at Anfield against Wales two months ago, has an inflamed toe.

Italian lawyer takes control of S United

SHEFFIELD, England, Nov 23 (Reuters/Internet): A London-based Italian lawyer has taken a 13 per cent stake in English first division football club Sheffield United in a 5.36 million US dollar deal.

Carlo Colombotti's Blades Italia Limited told a news conference at the Yorkshire club's Bramall Lane ground that they had acquired Texas Group plc's 13 per cent shareholding in the club.

That shareholding was owned by Mike McDonald who is replaced as the chairman of Sheffield United plc by Colombotti.

Philip Wood has become executive director of the football club.

The changes will result in a cash injection of 5.36 million US dollars in total with 3.30 million available immediately.

Sheffield United, who won 2-1 at Queens Park Rangers on Saturday, are currently fourth in the first division and pushing for promotion back to the premier league from which they were relegated in 1994.

Sheffield United shares were 28 pence each shortly after noon, down 1.5 pence on their opening and off a 53-pence year high.



Lazio's Chilean striker Marcelo Salas (C) tries to make his way through the AC Milan defence during their Serie A clash in Milan on November 22.

Peruvian soccer scandal

LIMA, Nov 23: Universitario De Deportes President Alfredo Gonzalez has suspended for eight years by Peru's football federation on Thursday following allegations that he attempted to fix a crucial league match two years ago, reports Reuters.

Gonzalez and former player Pedro Meza were adjudged to have tried to bribe two Atletico Torino players, a federation spokesman said.

The Atletico Torino players were approached by Meza who offered to pay them about 5,000 soles (2,000 dollars) to play badly in the league game against Universitario, then second in the table, the federation said.

The two rejected the bribe and the matter ended 0-0.

Universitario, one of Peru's biggest clubs, finally lost the championship to another Lima club, Sporting Cristal.

Gonzalez has denied the accusations and appealed.

Marion, Haile honoured

MONACO, Nov 23: American sprinter Marion Jones and Ethiopian long-distance runner Haile Gebrselassie were named on Sunday as the International Amateur Athletic Federation's athletes-of-the-year, reports Reuters.

Jones, who will attempt five gold medals at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, was beaten only once in more than 30 appearances over 100 and 200 metres and the long jump.

She also moved into second place in the all-time lists for the 100 and 200 behind world record holder Florence Griffith Joyner.

Gebrselassie set world records over 5,000 and 10,000 metres and also broke the world indoor, 3,000 mark.

None unbeaten anymore

LONDON, Nov 23 (Reuters): The last three unbeaten records in Europe's major domestic leagues bit the dust this weekend as a clutch of big-name clubs were knocked down by less prestigious opponents.

England's Aston Villa, Olympique Marseille of France and Spain's Celta Vigo were all defeated for the first time in the league this season, but they were in good company.

Spanish giants Real Madrid and Barcelona both lost, as did English pair Arsenal and Manchester United, while in Germany leaders Bayern Munich were also beaten. All five are in European Champions' League action this week.

So too are Italy's Inter Milan, who lost 3-1 to Fiorentina, and Champions Juventus, who stumbled to a goalless draw at home.

Scottish league leaders Rangers also suffered, capitulating 5-1 in the Old Firm derby against Celtic.

Leaders Fiorentina conceded a third-minute penalty but roared back to beat Inter.

Youri Djorkaeff gave the visitors their early lead but defender Pasquale Padolino levelled two minutes later, Argentine Gabriel Batistuta scored a second for Fiorentina in the 16th minute and German wing-back Joerg Heinrich made the game safe midway through the

second half. With Juventus stumbling to a 0-0 draw at home to Empoli and AS Roma drawing 1-1 at home to Bari, Giovanni Trapattoni's side moved three points clear at the top.

Big-spending Lazio's poor run continued when they conceded a last-minute goal to lose 1-0 at AC Milan.

European champions Real Madrid fell 3-1 at Valencia for whom Argentine striker Claudio Lopez scored twice, Barcelona went down 1-0 to Mallorca through an unfortunate own goal from Sergi Barjuan.

With Celta Vigo also losing 2-0 at Alaves, Mallorca moved clear at the top on 22 points.

Celta dropped to second, two points behind, with Barcelona third on 19 and Real Madrid fourth, ahead of Valencia on goals scored.

Real's city rivals Atletico, meanwhile, relieved the pressure on coach Arrigo Sacchi with a 6-1 romp at home to Valladolid.

Bayern Munich slumped to their second league defeat of the season when they were beaten 1-0 by 10-man Hertha Berlin.

Second-placed Bayer Leverkusen extended their unbeaten run to 11 matches by crushing VfL Bochum 5-1 away, to move to within two points of Bayern who have a game in hand.

Blackburn Rovers manager Roy Hodgson resigned after the 2-0 home defeat by Southampton which dropped his side to the bottom of the table.

Marseille lost their unbeaten record when they were beaten 2-1 at Olympique Lyon.

They are now only one point ahead of Girondins Bordeaux, who ended Monaco's perfect home record with a 2-0 victory.

Marseille fell behind to a goal by David Linares in the 17th minute. Lyon's Philippe Violeau secured the points with a second-half free-kick before Florian Maurice replied for Marseille.

Celtic confounded their critics with an astonishing 5-1 demolition of bitter Glasgow rivals Rangers.

Veteran Slovakian playmaker Lumbomir Moravcik was the unlikely two-goal hero for the struggling Scottish champions.

Swede Henrik Larsson also scored twice in Celtic's biggest win in a Glasgow derby for more than 30 years.



FC Porto striker Mario Jardel (M) avoids a tackle from Paulo Madeira of Benfica in their Portuguese league encounter in Oporto on November 21. Porto won the match 3-1.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

EAST LACKED THE STAMINA FOR GOOD DEFENCE (Hand # 136)

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

West	East
S J 10 9	S K 7 6 3
H 2	H 10 5
D Q J 9 4 2	D K 7
C K 9 4 2	C A 8 7 6 3

Bidding: Both sides were vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1 Heart	Pass	4 Hearts	Pass

South opened one Heart with 12 HCP. North with a singleton Club and a very strong support in the partner's suit jumped to four Hearts. Nobody would quarrel with the bidding, as North did not have a side suit to encourage partner for anything else.

THE PLAY

East led the Jack of Spades and as it was no good to cover with the Queen since the lead was definitely not from the King-Jack holding, the declarer rightly went up with the Ace. Next he led the 10 of Clubs from the dummy after clearing trumps in two rounds. East went up with the Ace since it was a singleton in the dummy, but little he thought either about his next move or about the possible holding of cards in the declarer's hand. On winning the Ace, he was faced with the problem of what to return. He could not play a Spade as there was the Queen in the dummy. He did not like to give a Club ruff, so he led the King of Diamonds expecting partner with the Queen. He was right about partner's Diamond holding, but the damage was already done. The declarer went up with the Ace and played the Queen of Clubs with the intention of ruffing in the dummy if she was covered by West or throw a losing Spade from the dummy. Ultimately, the declarer lost a Spade, a Diamond and a Club to make the contract.

Notice that if East ducked the Club lead from the dummy, West would have won the trick, and the declarer could not set up a Club trick without surrendering another trick to the defence. In that case the contract would have been set if East were not nervous to play his Ace on the first Club move from the dummy. He should have thought very carefully since the contract could not be beaten if the declarer had the King of Clubs. Hence, he should have assumed that partner had the King. It is necessary to have a lot of stamina for good defence in bridge.

Thackeray takes back his horns

NEW DELHI, Nov 23 (AFP/Internet): A firebrand Hindu leader who had vowed to stop Pakistani cricketers from playing in India has reversed his stand after being snubbed by the Indian prime minister, reports said Monday.

Pal Thackeray, whose Hindu Shiv Sena party rules Bombay, welcomed Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's recent pledge to guarantee the safety of any Pakistani team which toured India.

Vajpayee's promise was widely seen as a snub to Thackeray, whose party has frequently threatened to prevent Pakistani cricket teams from playing in India, to protest at Islamabad's alleged support for Muslim militant groups in India.

"After this announcement by the Prime Minister, I feel Pakistanis will at least now improve their behaviour towards India," newspapers quoted Thackeray as saying.

The Shiv Sena is an ally of Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party) and a member of India's coalition government which took office eight months ago.

The Pakistani cricketers are to tour India in January for three Tests and three limited-overs games. It would be the team's first visit to India in 11 years.

Vajpayee on Saturday dismissed threats from Hindu fundamentalists, saying his government will not allow any organisation or individual to disturb the tour.

Carlton calls off Arsenal talks

LONDON, Nov 23: Media group Carlton Communications announced Friday it is to pull out of all discussions on making an offer for Arsenal football club, reports Xinhua.

Carlton first announced it was in talks with the north London club on September 10, just 24 hours after satellite broadcaster BskyB unveiled its bid for Manchester United.

BskyB's bid for Manchester United was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission last month and a report is not due until March next year.

No price for a Carlton bid was ever made public but it had been reported the group was considering making an offer of 275 million pounds (about 456 million dollars).

Arsenal is listed at 162 million pounds yesterday.

A spokesman for Carlton said "we announced in September that talks were ongoing between the two companies and that they could include an offer being made."

"Those talks have now been terminated and that is all we are prepared to say," he added.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	42 Wisconsin name	58 Scandinavian suffix
1 Judge Timberline	45 Supermarket quantity	11 Gloom's partner
5 Brylicream	8 Conked out 49 To be, in Toulon	19 "way"
12 "That smart's!"	50 Roswell transport?	21 Old French coin
13 "I strain?"	52 Went like 60	24 See 54
15 Coup 'd'	53 Luminary with 24	25 Dhabli predecessor
16 Royal insomnia	54 With 24	26 Remove from the account
17 Sgt. Snorkel's dog	55 Algerian seaport	28 Bumped into
18 Phantom's mask, e.g.	56 Toolshed items	29 Account write-up
20 Cash in Bill, to fans	57 Hearty laugh	30 Sgt., e.g.
22 Gridlock component	Solution time: 23 mins.	31 Gratuity
24 Warmerger		36 Court performers
27 Sassy		37 Navy canceler
32 Kyoto sash		38 Church custodian
33 Score washdown		41 Hawaiian crooner
34 Biol. or phys.		42 She was just wild about Harry
35 Pariahs		43 "baby!"
38 Obey a red light		44 Red rock
39 Dobbins' dinner		46 Carried
40 Von maid-on-fair		47 Exam type
		48 Longings
		51 Egg-yong

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER: 5-7 yong

CRYPTOQUIP

V M E Z G V I C F D B F D Y S
S M I B E U L G A F I I U V
B F Y D W R U I Q G I F W M L F S C
K Z F K U Q M I K E R F A I L

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN MANY TOWNS OF THE OLD WEST, DID FEMALE HORSES USUALLY RUN FOR MARE?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals G

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.