

### 'Double it or I quit'

LONDON, Feb 10 (Internet): Chelsea defender Frank Leboeuf is threatening to quit the club this summer unless his near £20,000-a-week wages are doubled.

The French World Cup stalwart chose to air his grievance on the eve of tonight's Wembley friendly against England.

"Ken Bates likes to say I was the deal of his life," said Leboeuf, signed for £2.5million from Strasbourg two-and-a-half years ago.

"That pleases me and I'm very happy at Chelsea.

"But I don't want to be the club cretin. I won't be a dog-boddy for anyone," he told the magazine France Football.

"I signed a very good contract when I came to Stamford Bridge. I've doubled it since and I hope to quadruple it soon.

"But if the directors don't make an effort I may think about leaving. We'll see at the end of the season."

Leboeuf is one of the poor relations of the World Cup-winning squad.

The 31-year-old, whose salary is almost £1million, is not prepared to be left standing by the likes of Marcel Desailly who earns £2m a year - Gianfranco Zola and Pierluigi Casiraghi.

The stylish defender was former manager Ruud Gullit's first signing and any discord at the London club will alert Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier, who may have better fortune in luring him to Anfield than his predecessor Roy Evans last year.

It was Liverpool's attempt to snatch Leboeuf after his World Cup triumph that earned the player his most recent hike.

### Bafana Bafana opt for rookies

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 10 (Reuters/ Internet): South Africa named an inexperienced squad of 20 on Wednesday for their Cosafa Castle Cup match away against Botswana in Gaborone on February 20.

The squad includes 10 uncapped players, most of whom are called up for the first time.

Coach Trott Moloto has been forced to leave out the majority of his foreign-based contingent because they will be needed a week later when South Africa play Gabon in an African Nations Cup qualifying match.

John Moeti, who missed South Africa's last match because of a suspension, returns as captain in place of Lucas Radebe of English club Leeds United.

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Brian Balozi, Simon Gopane, and John Tlale

Defenders: Matthew Booth, Michael Manzini, Fabian McCarthy, Thabang Mnguni, Aaron Mokoena

Midfielders: Delron Buckley, Thiyelile Gulwa, Steve Lekoele, Thabo Mngeni, John Moeti, McDonald Mukanzi, Alfred Phiri, Godfrey Sapula

Strikers: Kerry Jordan, Pollen Ndlanga, Siyabonga Nomvethe, Sibisiso Zuma

### Chase after Salgado

VIGO, Spain, Feb 10 (Reuters/ Internet): Celta Vigo's Spanish international defender Michel Salgado is being chased by both Juventus and Real Madrid, the player said on Wednesday.

Speaking on Spanish radio, Salgado said: "Celta knows that I have had offers from Juventus and Real Madrid... but I have a contract with Celta and signed nothing with anybody at the moment."

Celta have ruled out any move before the summer.

"We are not talking to anyone about this matter before June, and anyone who wants Michel will not get him for less than his buy-out clause of 2,000 million pesetas (\$13.7 million)," Celta vice-president Francisco Hernandez reiterated on Wednesday.

Salgado, 23, has for several years been considered to be among Spain's most promising players and made his full international debut in September.

However he first gained international notoriety for a tackle last February which broke Juninho's ankle and ruled Atletico Madrid's Brazilian midfielder out of World Cup contention.

### Dumitrescu bids bye to soccer

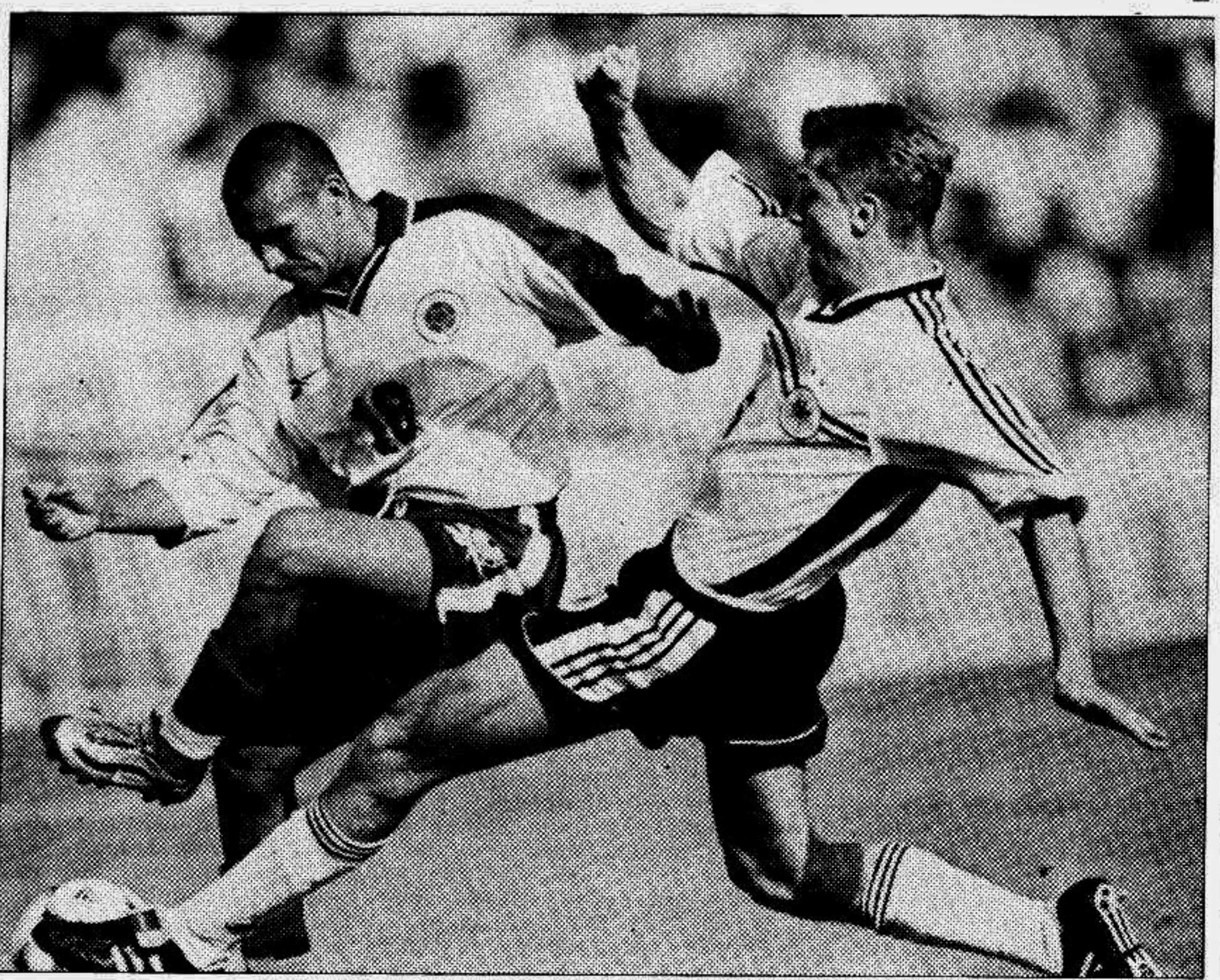
BUCHAREST, Feb 10: Romanian striker Ilie Dumitrescu, whose two goals against Argentina at the 1994 World Cup turned him into a national hero, is retiring for personal reasons, his club Steaua Bucharest said Tuesday, reports AP.

Despite a glittering career, the 30-year-old Dumitrescu has been bothered by repeated injuries and a lacklustre form in recent months.

He played abroad for four years with England's Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United, Sevilla of the Spanish Primera Liga and Mexico's Atlante before returning to Steaua Bucharest, which he played before his international career, in September.

Known in Romania for his love of fast cars and Italian clothes, Dumitrescu became a national figure after he unexpectedly scored two crucial goals against Argentina to lead Romania to a 3-2 victory and into the quarterfinals in the 1994 World Cup—their best finish.

But by last year's World Cup in France, Dumitrescu's form was shaky. He played only one half of one game — against Tunisia. Romania drew 1-1 with Tunisia and was knocked out by Croatia in the second round.



Henry Zambrano (L) of Colombia comes under a tackle from German defender Marko Rehmer during their international friendly in Miami on February 9. —AFP photo

### Odds on the tourists

LONDON, Feb 10: It all points to a first ever Wembley victory for World Cup holders France over England on Wednesday.

Last week the English fired their coach, Glenn Hoddle, amid public outrage over his reported comments about the disabled.

Although Howard Wilkinson was named temporary manager for Wednesday's friendly while the embattled Football Association finds a successor, English soccer appears in turmoil.

The team is struggling in third place in its European Championship qualifying group and Wilkinson, given the job to boost the dwindling confidence of the fans, has reverted to an old-style defensive formation which includes three Arsenal players with a combined age of 98.

Lee Dixon, who turns 35 next month, has been recalled after six years to join up with 32-year-olds Tony Adams and Martin Keown. If 35-year-old Nigel Winterburn joins them from the bench, France will face an all-Arsenal back line in front of Gunners goalkeeper David Seaman, who also has been recalled.

Arsenal could have as many as eight players on the field, with France expected to line up with Gunners starts Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira and Nicolas Anelka.

Liverpool's teenage star Michael Owen Partners Newcastle's Alan Shearer in the England attack with in-form Manchester United midfielder David Beckham setting up chances from the right.

The three are well known to a French defense which likely will have Chelsea's Marcel Desailly and Frank Leboeuf behind Vieira and Petit.

There's just one thing in England's favour.

In four previous visits to face England at Wembley, France has never scored and has lost each time.

The French have a poor record against the English, having lost 16 of their 23 previous meetings and won only four.

But that was before the arrival of Zinedine Zidane, Didier Deschamps, Lilian Thuram, Youri Djorkaeff, Desailly and the rest of the squad who triumphed over the Brazilians in Paris in last year's World Cup final.

A high-powered French lineup meets the English at their weakest following last week's extraordinary departure of Hoddle. He was fired over remarks reported in the Times of London in which he suggested that the disabled were being punished "for the sins of an earlier life."

After protests from disabled groups, government ministers and other lawmakers joined newspapers in calling for Hoddle to go and the Football Association fired him.

While the English hope to put a week of anguish behind them, the French are out to prove their World Cup triumph was no fluke.

Since taking over from Aime Jacquet, coach Roger Lemerre has taken the team through five games unbeaten, including three in the European Championship qualifying round and his big stars will enjoy playing in the wide open spaces of Wembley.

Anelka, who scored Arsenal's second at the home of English soccer in last season's FA Cup final, knows the stadium well and relishes the chance of leading the attack in the absence of the injured Lilian Laslandes.

If Owen and Shearer fail to break through the French defence, Andy Cole and Robbie Fowler, who have scored 30 goals between them this season, wait their chance to impress after being left out of the England lineup under Hoddle.

Wilkinson also has recalled Paul Ince, despite the fact that the fiery Liverpool midfielder is in the middle of a three-match suspension imposed for Euro 2000 matches after his expulsion against Sweden in September.

### Shearer plays it safe

BISHAM ABBEY, England, Feb 10 (Reuters/ Internet): England skipper Alan Shearer said the English Football Association (FA) should not consult him or other senior players over who should be appointed as England's next manager.

Shearer, who will win his 47th cap against World Champions France on Wednesday, was speaking in response to claims by David Davies, the FA's acting executive director, that senior players would be consulted over who should succeed Glenn Hoddle.

But the England captain made it clear that he wanted to play no part in the FA's decision.

"They have not consulted me and I would not want them to," he said.

"I am a footballer, not an FA councillor. We don't get paid to make those decisions — we are not politicians or FA executives, we are footballers."

"I've never been asked about who should be manager before and if they came to me I don't know what I would say."

The FA have said they will also invite opinion from many spheres of soccer including players, other managers and the media, before a new permanent coach is appointed to replace Hoddle who was sacked last week.

Howard Wilkinson, in charge for the match against France, has initially been appointed as caretaker coach for this match only.

Shearer is adamant that the team are united in their determination to beat France as a confidence-booster for next month's vital European Championship qualifying game against Poland.

"Our main objective has to be qualifying for the European Championship, and a good result against France would put us in a great mood."

"Confidence is so important in football — it can give you an extra 25 or 30 per cent, and we want to get the right result to take us into the Poland game with our confidence high."

"We want to win this one and the Polish game ideally, but if we could win just one it would be the Poland game."

"But this is a massive game too. France are world champions with world-class players, and they will be a very good test for us."

England go into the match having beaten France in all their four previous matches at Wembley dating back to 1957 with wins of 4-0 (1957), 2-0 (1966), 5-0 (1969) and 2-0 (1992).

Shearer scored the only goal of the game the last time the team met in the Tournoi de France in Montpellier in June 1997.



Former Italy international Carlo Ancelotti meeting photographers during his first training session on February 9 at Serie A giants Juventus. —AFP photo

### Asprilla show denies Germany

MIAMI, Florida, Feb 10: Germany ended a tumultuous trip to Florida here on Tuesday with a 3-3 draw against 10-man Colombia in Miami's Orange Bowl stadium, reports AFP.

It was a much-improved performance by the Germans after their shocking 3-0 defeat by the United States on Saturday.

But it was still far short of the class which the triple world champions expect.

Each time the young Colombians looked beaten — as they did after 44 minutes when Alexander Lemus was sent off — they rallied behind veteran and offensive focal point Faustino Asprilla.

Asprilla had a hand in all three Colombian goals.

He opened the scoring after 26 minutes, in front of a largely empty stadium, when he slipped the ball home despite the presence of Paris Saint Germain's Christian Worns, specially flown in by Germany for the match.

Newcomers Oliver Neuville and Michael Preetz teamed up for Germany's opening two goals, with Hertha Berlin striker Preetz using his foot in the 33rd minute and head in the 55th to put his side 2-1 up.

Colombia, however, took the game to Germany after the break.

Captain Jorge Bermudez fell in the area and Asprilla converted the penalty in the 68th minute, trying the score again, only for Marco Bode to exploit a Colombian error and head home the 74th minute after a misjudgement by keeper Oscar Cordoba.

Ivan Cordoba levelled yet again six minutes later, converting a Faustino Asprilla free-kick with a thumping header.

It was Germany's third meeting with Colombia and improved their record to one win and two draws.

### Ban on jersey

MEXICO CITY, Feb 10 (Reuters/ Internet): Mexico's Interior Ministry on Tuesday banned the national soccer team from wearing new uniforms featuring the same coat of arms that appears on the flag, saying the national emblem must be above commercialisation.

The Mexican team was planning to inaugurate the new uniforms — adorned with an eagle atop a cactus tree and devouring a snake — in a friendly game with Argentina on Wednesday in Argentina.

Instead the side will have to revert to the old jersey, either a green or white top with faint images of archaeological ruins.

Top Interior Ministry official Jesus Reyna Garcia wrote in a letter to the Mexican Soccer Federation and the telecommunications firm sponsoring the new uniforms that they would be banned because of "a clear tendency toward commercial exploitation."

Mexico's Coat of Arms, Flag and National Anthem Law forbids profiting from patriotic symbols.

### Sepp sings the same song

MUSCAT, Feb 10: FIFA president Joseph Blatter defended his plan for a football World Cup every two years here on Tuesday and denied it would mean more money for his world governing body, reports AFP.

Blatter, whose plan met with mixed reactions when he first revealed it last month, said he would present the details of his plan to the FIFA executive at a meeting on March 11 and 12.

Blatter argued his plan would underline the importance of national teams as opposed to the world's top clubs.

But he added: "FIFA earnings are higher when the World Cup is organised every four years as opposed to two."

Blatter was speaking here in Oman at a tri-nation tournament involving Oman, Switzerland and Slovakia.

Last month European football's governing body UEFA said the plan would devalue the World Cup.

### Zimbabwe to challenge CAF

HARARE, Feb 10: Zimbabwe is to appeal against the decision by the Confederation of African Football to take away its right to host the 2000 Africa Cup of Nations finals, a senior official said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

"We are going to make the necessary appeal," Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) chairman Leo Mugabe told local radio from the Ivory Coast where the CAF decided on Monday the southern African country had not made enough progress on stadium renovations.

"They are not sincere, they have an agenda," said Mugabe, nephew of the country's president, he did not elaborate.

CAF secretary general Mustapha Fakhry said other national federations had until March 10 to apply to host the tournament.

Fakhry, speaking after the CAF's executive committee met in Abidjan, said a decision on the venue for the finals would be taken in Guinea's capital Conakry on March 14.

Nigeria, hosts of the world youth cup in April, and Morocco, who have bid to stage the 2006 World Cup, are likely contenders given the short time scale.

The decision sparked outrage among Zimbabweans with radio programme clogged with complaints that the reasons given for taking away the event were not genuine.

# Ginola told it's time to go

LONDON, Feb 10 (Internet): David Ginola was last night effectively told by France coach Roger Lemerre that his international career was over on a day when the World Cup winners seemed to sneer at anything with an English flavour.

The Tottenham winger has been ignored by Lemerre for tonight's friendly against England at Wembley despite being in some of the best form of his career.

Lemerre said: "I know David is playing well and I'm pleased, but there are 22 players who won the World Cup for France and it's difficult to leave someone out."

"It's going to be difficult for him to get back in because he's 32 now and there are a lot of good players in France like Zidane, Djorkaeff and Dugarry. Then you have someone like Nicolas Anelka, who has won the league and cup in England at the age of 19."

"David's talent is not in dispute. It's exceptional, but I also have to think about the team. He is someone who likes to feel the ball. He loves the game and especially the pleasure of the game. I used to go and watch Paris Saint-Germain play when he was there just to watch him."

"I coached him for a year when I was in charge of the French military team. It's difficult now, though, because I fear he won't integrate into the team. We all love him but I'm not obliged to play him."

Ginola won the last of his 17 caps for France in the final qualifying match for USA '98 against Bulgaria in Paris, but he has never been forgiven in France for a last-minute mistake when, with France needing

only a point to advance to the World Cup Finals, he lost possession by the Bulgarian corner flag, allowing Emil Kostadinov to race away for the goal which eliminated the French.

Gerard Houllier, coach at the time and now manager of Liverpool, branded Ginola a criminal.



DAVID GINOLA

final and Lemerre hinted at the difficulty in giving him another chance in a team which won last summer's World Cup by embracing the collective work ethic.

But you also get the feeling that Ginola's outstanding has been devalued in the eyes of the French by the fact that it has been achieved in England.

World Cup-winning captain Didier Deschamps branded the Premier League an inferior league while Zinedine Zidane ruled out a move to England and Arsenal striker Nicolas Anelka called the country's players arrogant.

Deschamps insisted that a move to England would be a backward step for any world-class player, with the Premier League lagging behind many of Europe's top leagues in terms of quality. The 30-year-old midfielder said: "I don't think I'll come to England. You can see what happened to players like Petit, Leboeuf, Desailly and Vieira when they came here."

"They didn't need any acclimatisation or transition time to be ready to play in the Premiership, so it's clearly not as difficult as Serie A, which is the most difficult league in Europe."

Anelka, who criticised Dutch team-mate Marc Overmars for 'selfish play' at the weekend, chose to attack English players when he can. In general, the English players like to feel superior to us. You can feel it in the dressing room, in their eyes and on the pitch. It's in their nature, although the World Cup has tempered it.

"We mustn't lose. It is a question of honour and we needn't feel inferior when it comes to physical strength either. Our level of play in the Premiership is the same as that of the English nowadays, especially since French players have gone abroad."

Zidane, named FIFA's world player-of-the-year last week, dismissed the possibility of a move to Manchester United when his contract at Juventus runs out.

He said: "In the short term, playing in England is not one of my aims. I know the French players who have come to England have done well, but the English league has benefited from them as well."

"There are other important leagues in Europe and I'm very happy in Italy."



Former French international striker Jean Pierre Papin (R) in action during the Kings' Indoor Tournament match between his Swiss club Servette FC and Ukraine's Dynamo Kiev in Geneva on February 9. —AFP photo

# WC win Italy's inspiration

ROME, Feb 10 (Reuters/ Internet): Italian coach Dino Zoff has called up one new face and three World Cup stars for Wednesday's friendly against Norway in Pisa.

Bari midfielder Gianluca Zambrotta receives his first call-up and will probably start the match at Pisa's Garibaldi stadium in place of Parma's Diego Fuser.

Christian Vieri is back after missing Italy's last three matches through injury. He scored in his last international appearance — a 2-0 victory over Wales in Italy's opening European championship qualifier in September.

He also scored the goal which knocked Norway out of the World Cup in France.

Italy beat the Norwegians 1-0 in Marseille in the second round.

Zoff has also recalled Roberto Baggio for the first time since the Wales match in recognition of his excellent form with Inter Milan.

Baggio missed Italy's last three matches — a 2-0 win over

Switzerland in the Euro 2000 qualifiers, a 2-2 draw with Spain in a friendly and a 6-2 win over a Rest of the World XI in an exhibition match.

The third recall is for Lazio defender Alessandro Nesta, who has not played a competitive match for Italy since he tore knee ligaments in Italy's World Cup first round match against Austria in June.

Manchester United super-sub Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is on the team from the start for the first time since a friendly against Saudi Arabia before the World Cup finals.

Solskjaer is being rewarded for knocking in four goals in 11 minutes against Nottingham Forest at the weekend in an 8-1 rout.

Thomas Myhre of Everton is getting his chance in goal after veteran Frode Grodas failed to impress during the World Cup finals.

Erik Hofthun has a slight injury while Roar Strand skipped training on Tuesday and it is unclear if they will be fit to play.

Norwegian trainer Nils Semb said it was unclear which of Rekdal or Solbakken would

start the match, with each to play one half.

**LINE-UPS**

Italy: Angelo Peruzzi; Christian Panucci, Alessandro Nesta, Fabio Cannavaro.

Paolo Maldini; Gianluca Zambrotta, Dino Baggio, Demetrio Albertini, Eusebio Di Francesco; Christian Vieri, Roberto Baggio

Norway: Thomas Myhre; Vegard Heggem, Erik Hofthun, Ronny Johnsen, Andre Bergholmo, Petter Rudi, Erik Mykland, Kjetil Rekdal/Stale Solbakken, Roar Strand, Havard Flo; Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 Energy	2 Stealing wheel	3 Seek America's Cup	4 "Foucault's Pendulum" author	5 Bread spread	6 Pocketful, but not of rye	7 Seance sound	8 Oxidation	9 Yemeni	10 Unchanged Lewis' "19 MPer" quarry	11 Infinitesimal	12 New Haven symbol	13 Neckline ruffle	14 Clumsy craft	15 Patience personified	16 Pedestal occupant	17 Greek consonant	18 Nothing in Tijuana	19 Sailor	20 Chic, to
DOWN	1 Austin Powers	2 "— Defeats Truman"	3 Frivolous gal of song	4 "Became"	5 Mrs. Julius Dithers	6 Peel that tool	7 Estrada	8 Concept	9 Wonder	10 Hamlet, cohort	11 "Timberlane" 20 Wapiti	12 Frenzied 23 Lepre-	13 Like tea, often	14 Mrs. Copperfield	15 Moran of "Happy Days"	16 Last few notes	17 Sound of impact	18 "The Music Man" locale	19 Requisite	

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer

### CRYPTOQUIP

KT Y X I F B B W X T I L E  
C K X N B L F K N N Z K E E A  
B W U B Z I L D U D C A F U Y X N  
W K F U R U F T K D K U R  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHY DO ALL THE GIRLS WORSHIP THE SPRINTER? THEY SAY HE'S DASHING.  
Today's Cryptquip clue: D equals B  
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.