

Sport

Nadeem inspires Pakistan

COCHIN, India, Feb 12 (Reuters/Internet): Left-arm spinner Nadeem Khan limited the damage caused by sloppy Pakistan catching and fielding as he snipped up four for 87 against the Indian Board President's XI on Friday. The touring side dropped four catches but Nadeem produced a disciplined effort that restricted the President's XI to a first innings lead of 35. The Board team were bowled out for 282 on the second day of the three-day game and Pakistan, who made 247 for nine declared in the 21st innings, were 27 for no wicket at the close, just eight runs adrift. Pakistan's lapses included dropping top scorer Virender Kohli who hit 66, and twice missing JP Yadav, who made the second highest score of 63. Nadeem bowled a tight line and length, forcing the batsmen to try some ambitious shots. The spinner was rewarded with the wickets of Sehwal and Yadav in addition to captain Hrishikesh Kanitkar and wicket-keeper MSK Prasad. Yadav overcame a shaky start to lash four sixes off Mushtaq Ahmed's leg spin, two from successive balls. Sehwal and Kanitkar (22) helped themselves to a six off the same bowler. Sehwal also struck eight fours before slashing wildly at a delivery from Nadeem outside the off-stump and edging it to his brother, captain and wicket-keeper Moïn Khan. Pakistan, who shared a two-Test encounter with India 1-1 recently, meet their arrival in Calcutta next week in the first match of the inaugural Asian Test Championship that also features Sri Lanka.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Day, Innings, Team, and Score. Includes match details for Day 1 and Day 2, and a Bowling table with columns for Player, Overs, M, R, W.

Understanding the Steve style

MELBOURNE, Feb 12 (Reuters/Internet): If Steve Waugh's own career is any guide, Australian cricket is on the verge of a return to an era where winning comes before everything else. For while Waugh, who was appointed on Friday as Australia's 40th Test captain, has a rare respect for the game's traditions, he is also one of the most determined and pragmatic players to ever represent his country. Waugh is the hard man of the Australian team, a 33-year-old player who not only expects but also demands the very best from himself and his teammates. He has never taken a backward step during his illustrious career and is unlikely to start now that he has attained the captaincy. Waugh's hard-nosed approach to the game is built around the fact that he is the only member of the current Australian team who knows

what it's like to lose. And although the Australian team's fortunes have risen dramatically in the past few seasons under the astute leadership of Allan Border and Mark Taylor, Waugh's approach to the game is intrinsically linked to his early experiences. He began his test career in 1985 when Australian cricket was at a low, highlighted by their loss to England in the 1986-87 Ashes series. Waugh struggled with his own form in his early matches but was retained because of the selectors' faith in his ability. Eventually though, they ran out of patience and dropped him from the side in 1991 for his twin brother Mark. But Waugh fought his way back into the side and has remained there ever since. And just as Australia have emerged as the best side in the world, Waugh has laid claim to being the best batsman in the game. The turning point in his career came in 1995 when Australia travelled to the West Indies to try and win their first

MEET THE AUSTRALIANS

SYDNEY, Feb 12 (AFP) : Penpix of the Australian cricket team to tour the West Indies in March-April announced today : STEVE WAUGH: Age 33. Captain. Right-hand batsman. Medium-pace bowler. NSW. 111 Tests. 7,213 runs at 50.44. 17 100/2 40 50's. Highest score 200. 20 Tests vs W Indies at 41.65. Along with Ian Healy Australia's most senior Test player. Takes over captaincy from retiring Mark Taylor. MICHAEL SLATER: 29. Right-hand opening batsman. NSW. 45 Tests. 3,515 runs at 45.64. HS 219. 11 100's 12 50's. Aggressive opening batsman who has played 4 Tests against W Indies at 23.16. MATTHEW ELLIOTT: 27. Left-hand opening batsman. Victoria. 17 Tests. 1,102 runs at 40.81. 3 100's 4 50's. HS 199. Gets recall to open innings following retirement of Mark Taylor. 2 Tests vs W Indies at 42.66. MARK WAUGH: 33. Right-hand batsman. off-spin bowler. NSW. 86 Tests. 5,840 runs at 43.90. 16 100's 33 50's. HS 153 not out. 19 Tests against W Indies at 43.90 with 3 100's. Stylish no. 4 batsman who scores runs against W Indies. JUSTIN LANGER: 28. Left-handed batsman. W. 16 Tests. 919 runs at 35.34. 2 100's 6 50's. HS 179 not out. 4 Tests against W Indies at 16.57. Gritty No. 3 who played all 5 Tests against England in 98-99 Ashes series but struggles against W Indies fast bowlers. GREG BLEWETT: 27. Right-handed batsman. M. Medium-pace bowler. SA. 31 Tests. 1,843 runs at 36.13. 4 100's 10 50's. HS 214. 9 wkts at 57.77. 8 Tests against W Indies at 36.08 with 4 50's. Technically strong batsman who missed all Ashes Tests despite scoring prolifically in other first-class matches. RICKY FOSTING: 24. Right-handed batsman. Tasmania. 22 Tests. 1,209 runs at 36.63. 2 100's 7 50's. HS 127. 2 Tests against W Indies at 27.50. Exciting batsman and outstanding fieldman. IAN HEALY: 34. Right-handed batsman and

Lemerre happy enough

LONDON, Feb 12 (AP): Winning at Wembley can hardly compare with a World Cup triumph. But it convinced coach Roger Lemerre that France are a world of world champions and have much to teach tired old teams like England. You have to remember we are the world champions, Lemerre said after his team's 5-2 win at the home of English soccer. "It's not an accident that we won this game. After England won the World Cup in 1966 they dominated for a few years. There is no reason why we shouldn't do the same." Lemerre's team outplayed England during the second half at Wembley to score a 2-0 victory with goals by England-based Nicolas Anelka. It should have been 3-0 because Anelka also had a shot that hit the underside of the bar and bounced

behind the line before coming back into a play. That one wasn't spotted by the linesman and that was a good job for the home team because no one had beaten England by three goals at Wembley since Hungary's famous 6-3 triumph in 1953. The England fans among the 74,111 sellout crowd drifted away in dismay in the knowledge their stars had been beaten by a superior team. In four previous visits to Wembley France had lost 4-0, 2-0, 5-0 and 2-0 and, in terms of results, this was a big turnaround and Lemerre said it was a landmark victory for French soccer. "France had never won at Wembley before and never scored a goal against England here," he said. "It's an exceptional thing for a French team to win here before the stadium is knocked down and rebuilt." But it came as no surprise. English soccer was reeling from last week's firing of coach Glenn Hoddle over remarks he reportedly made that the disabled were being punished "for the sins of an earlier life". Amid a public outcry over the remarks, Hoddle was dismissed and replaced on a temporary basis by the Football Association's director of football Howard Wilkinson who had little more than a week to prepare the team for Wednesday's game. He dismantled Hoddle's 3-5-2 formation and went back to an old fashioned 4-4-2, recalling veteran Lee Dixon, 35 next month, to join Arsenal colleagues Tony Adams and Martin Keown in defence. But, according to Lemerre, even a full-prepared England lineup would have had problems with his team at Wembley. "It was very difficult for England because France played very well, especially in the second half when we really dominated," said the French coach, who took over from Aime Jacquet after the World Cup triumph.

French league preview

PARIS, Feb 12: In a week that saw France's historic Wembley defeat of England, attention switches back from the Twin Towers to the twin powers of domestic French football, reports AFP. Marseille and Bordeaux have left the chasing pack behind in a fascinating title duel with more twists than a Hitchcock thriller. The scales tipped back in favour of Marseille last week after a 3-1 win over Bastia that saw them go top when the Girondins could only draw with Rennes. The previous weekend Bordeaux had seemingly made a decisive move with a convincing 4-1 win over their fellow contenders. Apart from the second week of the season one or other club has been in pole position throughout the campaign with the lead changing hands seven times between the two sides. Bordeaux, two points behind Marseille, host Bastia at the Stade Lescur on Saturday while on Sunday Marseille make the trip to Toulouse, who have shown signs they could avoid the drop under new coach Alain Giresse. Bastia will be under strength when they visit the Girondins with Frederic Ne, Pierre Yves Andre, Eric Durand, Frank Matingou and Frederic Mendy all injured and former Blackburn star Patrick Valery suspended. However, the Corsican side has been boosted by the return of Brazilian-born Tunisian international Jose Clayton after a heart scare and Stephane Odet. Bordeaux's strikers Lillian Laslandes (14 goals this season) and Sylvain Wilford (15) will both be eager to stay in scoring form as will Marseille's Florian Maurice (11) following the Wembley heroics of Arsenal striker Nicolas Anelka, who seems to now have solved France's striking problem. Third-placed Lyon and fourth-placed Nantes, both teams are 11 points behind Bordeaux, clash Saturday in what would have been the top of the bill match had the title race not become such a two-horse race. Nantes bring in youngster Nicolas Gilet in place of the suspended Eric Decroix. Lyon welcome back Florent Laville but midfielder Christian Bassila and defenders Cedric Vras and Serge Blanc are ruled out. Rennes (fifth) and Monaco (sixth) clash in another match that could have an impact on European places at the end of the season though Monaco will still be without French World Cup striker David Trezeguet. Champions Lens host Paris Saint Germain at the Stade Felix Bollaert with all eyes on home striker Tony Vairelles. The French international has been linked with a move to the Parc des Princes at the end of the season. Defender Christian Wornos could miss out for PSG after playing for Germany on their American tour when Nigerian Jay-Jay Okocha is another possible non-starter. Defender Gregory Paisley is ruled out for the season. PSG's 2-1 victory over Sochaux last time out has probably banished any lingering fears of relegation for the capital's only top-flight club to the relief of the moguls at Canal Plus TV channel who own the club. The relegation battle between Sochaux and Le Havre has been postponed because of heavy snow and the pitch is considered so unplayable that Sochaux's rescheduled match on Wednesday with Monaco has also been postponed -- the third time the encounter, originally due to be played on December 12, has suffered such a fate.

Fiorentina sans super-strikers

MILAN, Feb 12 (AFP/Reuters/Internet): Italian league leaders Fiorentina go into Sunday's match with Udinese deprived of the services of Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta and in the knowledge that their season is at a critical point. Batigol, with 18 goals in 20 games this season, will be out for more than a month. For good measure Brazilian striker Edmundo has gone to Rio for the carnival. With Fiorentina's lead down to a single point, the pressure is on Belgian international Luis Oliveira and Anselmo Robbiati, although reserve Carmine Esposito will also be hoping for his chance. "This is the decisive time," said coach Giovanni Trapattoni. "And I've got a lot of faith in the solidity of this group of players. I think Fiorentina can stand up to any other team in the championship." "The thing is not to feel we've been victimised, not to cry about things. We've got to roll up our sleeves and get on with it. Even without a star like Gabriel Batistuta," he added. Fiorentina travel to Udine to face a side led by Brazilian striker Marcelo Amoroso, linked with Trapattoni's team as a possible future replacement for Edmundo. Other Serie A matches on Sunday (League positions in parentheses): Bari (10) v Vicenza (15). Bari have problems in attack and midfield where South

African Phil Masinga and Swede Daniel Andersson are suspended. Moroccan centre back Rachid Negrouz missed training on Thursday with a slight injury but will play. New Vicenza coach Eduardo Reja seeks to build on last weekend's 1-0 win over Piacenza. Cagliari (11) v Lazio (2). Lazio bid for a record-equaling 10th consecutive victory. Christian Vieri faces a late test after missing Italy's mid-week friendly against Norway. Portugal's Fernando Couto is out (pulled muscle). Mid-table Cagliari are within three points of the relegation zone. Fiorentina's 3-2 victory over Lazio on Thursday was a sign of life. Udinese manager Vujadin Boskov in charge for the first time but supporters are likely to stage protests against his appointment. Piacenza (14) v Juventus (9). Carlo Ancelotti's first match in charge of a Juventus side in disarray following 4-2 defeat by Parma a week ago and the resignation of Marcello Lippi. Midfielder Alessio Tacchinardi suspended. Striker Filippo Inzaghi trained on Thursday but unfit. Udinese manager Vujadin Boskov back from injury to lead the attack. Piacenza have three suspended and several first team injuries. AS Roma (7) v Sampdoria (16). Roma seek their first win in four matches against a Sampdoria side floundering in the relegation zone. Italy midfielder Luigi Di Biagio suspended and Cameroon defender Pierre Moukoko injured. Recent Brazilian signing Fabio Junior likely to start. Sampdoria's Ariel Ortega banned and influential midfielder Simone Vergassola injured.

Rivaldo, Raul come face to face

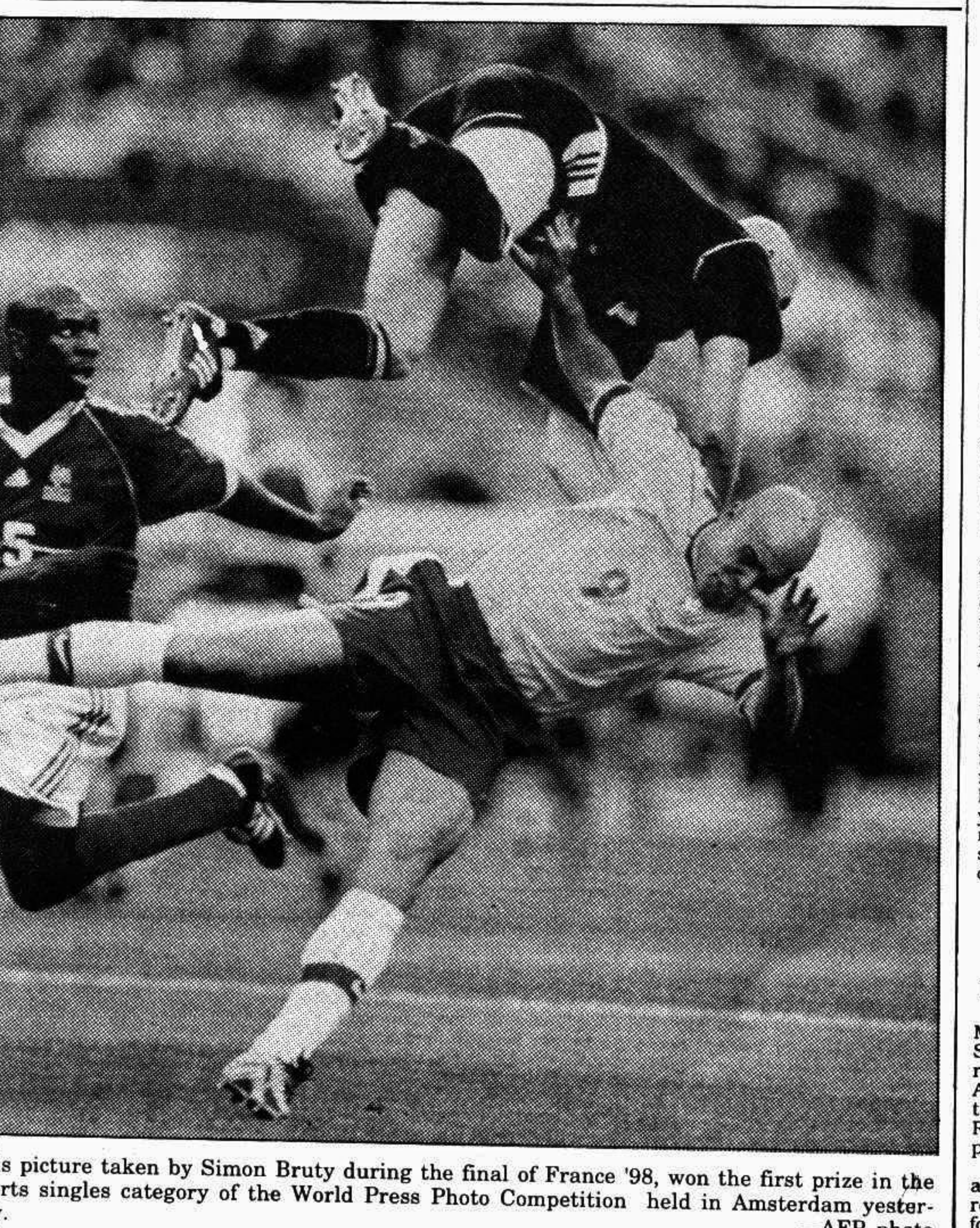
All roads lead to Nou Camp MADRID, Feb 12 (Reuters/Internet): The two deadliest strikers in the Spanish league this season are set for a derby duel in Sunday's Nou Camp clash -- Real Madrid's Raul Gonzalez and Barcelona's Rivaldo. Spanish international Raul leads the first division scoring charts with 13 goals after 21 games, with Rivaldo just one goal behind. Statistics show how important each marksman is to their clubs' success, with both contributing more than a quarter of their teams' goals this season. Not surprisingly, the Spanish media have been eagerly anticipating seeing the pair on the same pitch. "Duel of the goal getters," proclaimed the Barcelona-based sports daily Sport. Raul's hat-trick against Valladolid last Sunday showed he is in fine form, with a difficult 1997-98 season and an injured World Cup in France fully behind him. Plagued by media accusations about how his off-field activities -- he dates a well known Spanish model -- were affecting his play, last season's form was his worst in four years as a professional. The misery carried over onto the international stage and, apart from a memorable volleyed goal against Nigeria, he had a forgettable World Cup final. However, he quickly regained his old spark, hit two goals against Villarreal on the opening day of the season, and has never looked back. Raul has had little to say about how he views his current form. The Real Madrid players are still observing their vow of silence taken two weeks ago over press criticisms of their 4-0 thrashing at Deportivo La Coruna. However, Barcelona goalkeeper Ruud Hesp, the man charged with thwarting him on Sunday, is prepared to talk freely about Raul. "He's a fantastic footballer. I've been aware of him from my first day here," Hesp said. "It has always been difficult keeping him from scoring. He's put six past me in our games and he's a constant danger. We are going to have to keep a close eye on him because he is capable of deciding the game with just one move." Despite his many goals over the years, Raul has scored only once at the Nou Camp, in the 1997 Spanish Supercup. Rivaldo has found few problems working his way through the Real Madrid defence. Last season, he scored the first goal in Barcelona's 3-2 victory in the Bernabeu Stadium. The strike ended a seven-game unbeaten streak of the then Real Madrid goalkeeper Santiago Canizares. Many pundits consider that was the moment Real lost interest in the Spanish league title, even though the defeat came in November. This year Rivaldo has been slower than his Madrid rival to get into his stride, taking until the fifth game against Valencia to get his first goal of the season. The man who notched 19 goals last season, the second highest tally in the Spanish first division, acknowledged he took a long time recovering from a taxing World Cup. Despite scoring three goals for Brazil, Rivaldo never quite looked the same player in France '98 as he had been in club colours. Raul's 12 goals this season have included double strikes against Alaves, Athletic Bilbao and Real Zaragoza. The only major obstacle to Rivaldo achieving more misery on Real Madrid would be the return of Spanish international Fernando Hierro to the heart of their defence. The pair have had some bruising encounters. "I suffer a lot in derby matches. Hierro is a violent player, especially with the use of his arms," Rivaldo commented. "However, I am always motivated for a derby match," he added. "Every time I was playing for Deportivo, a visit from Real Madrid would always raise the temperature." Other Primera Liga matches this weekend (League positions in parentheses): Mallorca (5) v Real Sociedad (10). The home side will be without Argentine midfielder Ariel Ibagaza, who is still suffering from an ankle injury, but Javier Olazola comes back after suspension. Real Sociedad coach Bernd Krauss could give a debut to young midfielder Mikel Aramburu, who has trained with the first team this week. Defender Juan Gomez is suspended. Atletico Madrid (8) v Espanyol (13). Atletico coach Arrigo Sacchi is considering recall for Brazilian Juninho in a revamped midfield. Argentine defender Jose Antonio Chamot is suspended after picking up

Hair nominated Australia's WC representative

MELBOURNE, Feb 12: Darrell Hair will be Australia's umpiring representative at this year's World Cup in England after escaping punishment over the controversial comments made in his book, reports AFP. Hair was stood down for the current triangular series involving Australia, England and West Indies after he described the bowling action of Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan as "diabolical" in his book, "The Decision Maker". Australia's leading umpire answered four charges here Thursday of breaching clause eight in the International Cricket Council's code of conduct which relates to conduct detrimental to the game. Although Hair was found guilty of two of the charges by the Australian Cricket Board's Code of Conduct Commissioner, Judge Gordon Lewis, he escaped any penalty due to a technicality. Judge Lewis, a Victorian County Court judge, found he was unable to identify any penalty process relating to umpires in the ICC's code which means he could not apply any punishment to Hair. ICC chief executive David Richardson said in a statement Friday cricket's governing body may have to review their conduct code in light of Judge Lewis' ruling. "We will take careful note of Judge Lewis' views about the inability of the Code of Conduct to adequately deal with any penalty process relating to umpires in the ICC's code which means we could not apply any punishment to Hair," Richardson said.

Juninho ready for recall

MADRID, Feb 12 (Reuters/Internet): Atletico Madrid's Brazilian midfielder Juninho is set for a recall for Saturday's home clash with Espanyol as under-pressure coach Arrigo Sacchi makes yet another tactical switch. Sacchi, who twice changed his playing formation during a defeat against Salamanca last weekend, has long resisted using Juninho in the centre of the field, arguing that he and Juan Carlos Valeron cannot play together. But the Italian -- who has seen his side slip to eighth in the table on the back of three defeats in their last four games -- will change his strategy once more this weekend as he looks to unlock one of the most secure defences in the country.



This picture taken by Simon Bruty during the final of France '98, won the first prize in the sports singles category of the World Press Photo Competition held in Amsterdam yesterday. —AFP photo

Sampras in last eight

SAN JOSE, California, Feb 12 (AFP/AP): World number one Pete Sampras continued his impressive return after skipping the Australian Open, rolling past Argentina's Martin Rodriguez 7-5, 6-3 here Thursday. Top seed Sampras advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$25,000 ATP Sybase Open by ousting the 95th-ranked South American and booking a date today against Germany's Bernd Karbacher. "It's always difficult playing someone I've never seen," Sampras said. Fatigue kept Sampras, 27, from Australia but he has not lost a set in his first 1999 event, having dispatched Spain's Galo Blanco 6-4, 6-4, in the opening round. Sampras won four titles last year, including his fifth Wimbledon crown, and is closing in on Ivan Lendl's record of 270 weeks overall as the top player. He is in his 258th week atop the ATP rankings. Third-seeded Philippoussis, ranked No. 14 in the world, had eight aces against the unseeded Ivan Lottion on Thursday night, including one clocked at 128 mph (206 kph) in a match that lasted just 44 minutes. The 22-year-old Australian had a tournament-best 132 mph (212 kph) serve in his first-round victory over Sargis Sargsian. Rajshahi cricket From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Feb 12: Rajshahi Medical College (A) defeated Salbagan Kalon Ekadosh by 36 runs in second Hassan Imam & Ali-Imam Pinto. Smart cricket tournament played today at Rajshahi Medical College campus ground. Medical College battered first and scored 116 in 20.5 overs. In reply, they shot out Salbagan for 80 in 16.3 overs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 One of the Three Bears 5 Swindle 8 Reddish-brown 12 Mid-March 13 "The ram parts..." 14 The Tent-maker 15 Shamed hubby's locale? 17 Title 18 Deserter 19 Draw of cartoons 21 Alopecic detective 23 Carriage 25 Grad 26 Santa's runway 30 Puffer, old-style 31 Contract clause 32 Chopper 33 Pentagon VIPs 35 Jet forth 36 Affection 37 Banishes calla 38 Pact 41 One of the Hardy Boys 42 Marnie's partner 43 Chalice-donny in a high place? 48 One of HOMES 49 Intent 50 Emanation 51 Sneaker 52 Sailor name 53 Cried DOWN 1 Central 2 Commotion 3 "Little Irish" Solution time: 24 mins. NOT MENTIONED: GOLF, HONEY, HILL, GREATINGS, THE, SHE, ESSAYS, HIGHER, RENT, OAR, RED, SALAD, AGED, DON, GATE, ROULETTE, GA, LEON, RYE, PINEY, CADDIE, TAB, AVA, GREAT, BEAR, PIN, HORSE, GUN, ODE, TIRE, GUN. Yesterday's answer: 37 Banshees!

Cryptogram puzzle grid and text. Includes the word 'CRYPTOQUIP' and a clue: 'The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think an X equals O, it will stand 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.' Below the grid are the words U N F G A V J N G J G D F E N G W U E E G W L F M U A F V M P A W P J N U W T D P A F J N G W J G O U W T G L A G O F. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: GRUMPY DOG TO HIS FRIEND. "STOP HOUNDING ME! I'VE HAD A VERY RUFFY DAY."