

# Raducioiu finally says yes

BUCHAREST, Feb 25(Reuters/Internet): Brestia striker Florin Raducioiu has relented after more than two years of appeals and agreed on Thursday to rejoin the Romanian national side's campaign to qualify for the 2000 European championship finals.

"I need Romania's national team," Raducioiu said by telephone from the Italian city. "I'm ready to fight again for a place in the national team's attack."

Romanian coach Victor Piturca also called up uncapped Dorin Mitrita of Dutch side Heerenveen to replace unfit Andelrecht defender Tibor Selymes.

Raducioiu, 29, won 41 caps and scored four goals in the 1994 World Cup finals in United States. He agreed to calls from Piturca after long spurning his volatile predecessor Anghel Iordanescu.

Raducioiu scored in his last appearance for the national side when Romania lost 2-1 to Spain in the 1996 European Championships in England.

He will launch his comeback in a friendly against Estonia in Bucharest on March 3 and a second friendly a week later at home against Israel.

Romania currently lead group seven with seven points from three matches, one ahead of Slovakia and Portugal.

Their next European championship match is at home against Slovakia on March 27 and away to Azerbaijan four days later.

**Squad:** Goalkeepers: Tiberiu Lung (Universitatea Craiova), Bogdan Lobont (Rapid Bucharest). Defenders: Dorin Mitrita (Heerenveen), Iulian Miu (Steaua Bucharest), Cosmin Contra, Liviu Ciobotariu, Daniel Florea (all Dinamo Bucharest).

**Midfielders:** Gheorghe Popescu (Galatasaray), Dorinel Munteanu (Cologne), Denis Serban (Valencia), Laurentiu Rosu, Ionut Lutu, Eugen Trica (all Steaua Bucharest).

**Forwards:** Florin Raducioiu (Brestia), Adrian Mutu, Adrian Mihalcea (both Dinamo Bucharest), Ionel Danculescu (Steaua Bucharest).

# Campbell set to play despite racism row

ISTANBUL, Feb 25(Reuters/Internet): Kevin Campbell will be on duty for Trabzonspor at the weekend despite a row over racist insults he said were made about him by the club's chairman.

"The squad has flown to Istanbul ahead of the match. Campbell was with them," said a Trabzonspor official on Thursday.

The black English striker said on Wednesday he was determined to leave the Turkish side following remarks by Mehmet Ali Yilmaz, Campbell said they were the greatest insult in his life.

Yilmaz told Turkish television at the weekend that Campbell's performance at the club had been a disappointment.

"We bought a cannibal who calls himself a striker," he said, describing the player as "discoloured".

Campbell said the remarks were highly offensive and he had told the team's English coach, former Liverpool player Gordon Milne, that he wanted to leave.

Yilmaz said his remarks had been made in anger after Trabzonspor lost to Kocaelispor.

"I am not and have never been a racist," the Hurriyet daily quoted him as saying. "If a microphone is shoved in your face when you are gutted after a 0-3 loss it is natural for it all to spill out."

He hinted that Campbell would be allowed to leave the club he joined from Nottingham Forest last July in a 6.6 million dollars move.

A British embassy spokesman in Ankara said: "The racist comments are unacceptable."

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# Moenchengladbach desperate for a win

BONN, Feb 25 (Reuters/Internet): Borussia Moenchengladbach, one of the greatest clubs in German soccer history, cannot afford to lose again against fellow strugglers Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday if they are to remain in the Bundesliga.

"I still believe we can escape relegation," said midfielder Michael Frontzeck, who re-joined Moenchengladbach from SC Freiburg last December, "but we must be beat Eintracht."

Bottom-placed Moenchengladbach, remembered for winning five German titles and a UEFA Cup, are desperate to stay in the first division, which they have not left since being promoted in 1965, should receive a boost from one of the club's heroes, Bert Vogts.

"This club gave me everything and now it's time for me to pay them back," said Vogts, who is expected to join the club's board of directors next week.

Vogts, who stepped down as national team coach last September, played over 400 matches for Moenchengladbach in their glory days, from 1965 to 1979.

Moenchengladbach's main rivals then were Bayern Munich, who are in a totally different class now as they top the standings with a comfortable 10-point lead on second-placed Bayer Leverkusen.

The leaders, who crushed MSV Duisburg 3-0 last weekend, will be at full strength when they visit Hansa Rostock on Saturday and should pick up three more points.

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lifting the UEFA Cup twice in the 1970s, were looking for a fresh start against champions Kaiserslautern last weekend.

They put up a brave fight in their first match after the winter break but still lost 2-0 in front of their fans to drop six points behind 17th-placed Nuremberg.

"We're not in the second division yet," said Frontzeck, hoping for a burst of pride away to Eintracht, who are a miserable 16th and also badly need points to remain in the top flight. "If we keep on playing like we did against Kaiserslautern, we will win matches."

Moenchengladbach's efforts to stay in the first division, which they have not left since being promoted in 1965, should receive a boost from one of the club's heroes, Bert Vogts.

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"If we keep on playing like that, with the same mentality, we will be very hard to beat," Bayern keeper Oliver Kahn said after the match at Duisburg.

Bayern's match against Rostock will be their final warm-up before next week's awaited all-German European Cup quarter-final battle against Kaiserslautern.

The Red Devils, who beat Bayern to the title last season, are currently third. They entertain VfB Stuttgart on Friday.

Leverkusen, who will be happy if they hold on to second place and the ticket to the Champions' League it offers, face a tricky task away to Hamburg SV on Saturday.

"Bayern are the top favourites and it is very unlikely that we will stop them from winning the title," admitted Leverkusen manager Reiner Calmund. "The best we can do is finish second."

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# FA Cup Ginola steals the show

LONDON, Feb 25(Reuters/Internet): Spectacular goals by Darren Anderton and David Ginola took League Cup finalists Tottenham into the F.A. Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday.

They beat Leeds United 2-0 in a fifth round replay, their goals coming in a remarkable 15-minute spell during which the mercurial Ginola also hit the post twice.

In the night's other replays Newcastle United, last year's beaten finalists, beat injury-hit Blackburn Rovers 1-0 away and Derby County came from behind to beat first division Huddersfield Town 3-1. Ginola was the undoubted star of a breathtaking second half at White Hart Lane which gave Tottenham manager George Graham a sweet victory over his former club.

Ginola hit the post twice with stunning left-foot shots, the first after a mazy run across the face of the penalty box, and scored Tottenham's second in the 67th minute with a 25-metre right-foot volley.

England midfielder Anderton had given Spurs the lead eight minutes earlier with a 30-metre strike which flew in off a post past a startled Nigel Martyn.

Leeds contributed much to the excitement of the second half as Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink was unlucky with a fierce shot which came back off the inside of the post.

Spurs are away to first division Barnsley in the quarter-finals.

Frenchman Louis Saha, playing in place of flu-hit England striker Alan Shearer, earned Newcastle a home tie against Everton by scoring the only goal at Ewood Park.

He controlled a long pass on his chest and volleyed home in the 39th minute.

Huddersfield's hopes of a quarter-final against holders Arsenal were boosted in the 15th minute when Chris Beech gave them the lead.

But Tony Dorigo equalised with a thunderous 25-metre shot following a tapped cross, kick in the 34th minute and Francesco Baiano killed off the first division side's challenge with two goals in the 73rd and 82 minutes.

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Tottenham Hotspurs' French star David Ginola (L) sends in a minus into the Leeds United box during their FA Cup fifth round replay in London on February 24. Spurs won 2-0.

— AFP photo

# Valencia baffle Barca

MADRID, Feb 25: Valencia held off a second half fight back by holders Barcelona to win a seven-goal thriller in a Spanish Cup second leg quarter final on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Valencia, 3-2 up on the first leg, looked to be coasting to victory when they went 3-0 up at half-time. But Barcelona hit back with three goals in the second half.

A second half penalty by Gaizka Mendeta finally gave Valencia a 4-3 win on the night and 7-5 victory over both legs.

Barcelona's opponents in last year's final Mallorca, also went out of the competition, beaten 1-0 away by Deportivo Coruna and losing 2-1 on aggregate.

Argentine striker Claudio Lopez picked up an inch-perfect Mendeta pass after 23 minutes and danced around Barcelona goalkeeper Ruud Hesp for Valencia's first goal.

Miguel Angel provided the service for Lopez's second strike 12 minutes later and again Hesp was left standing helpless as the left-footed Valencia player found the net.

Angulo got on the scoresheet himself two minutes before the break after Frank de Boer mistimed a clearance and the ball spun straight to his feet.

Goals from Rivaldo and Os-

car Garcia gave Barcelona a glimmer of hope but Frank de Boer was again at fault when he took Gabriel Popescu's legs away from under him in the penalty area after 69 minutes.

Mendeta had no trouble from the spot for Valencia's fourth goal.

De Boer gave Barcelona some consolation by heading home a Abelardo pass nine minutes from time.

In a bad-tempered match, the two teams conceded 50 fouls between them and each were handed four yellow cards.

Mallorca had everything to play for in Coruna after a 1-1 first leg draw, but Deportivo scored after nine minutes from Argentine Turis Flores which was enough to settle the tie.

Chilean Santis joins Espanyol

BARCELONA, Spain, Feb 25: Espanyol have signed Chilean international midfielder Cesar Santis, the Barcelona-based club said on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Santis, 20, has two caps to his name, including coming on as a substitute in his country's 2-1 loss to the United States on Sunday.

He was signed from Chilean club Union Espanola and will join his new club during the summer. Espanyol did not release any financial details.

# Blatter's plan put on hold

GENEVA, Feb 25 (Reuters/Internet): European soccer's governing body, UEFA, forced Sepp Blatter to back down on his plan to stage the World Cup every two years on Wednesday - but both sides have not ruled it out in the long term.

"We have 10 years to discuss this project. Before then it will not be an actuality," said UEFA president Lennart Johansson, one of the harshest critics of Blatter's plan.

The president, as generous as he is, said he's not going to put the idea to a vote to the executive committee or the congress. And he did this knowing he could have had the majority of votes for it.

But he listened carefully to our arguments and he understands them.

"It doesn't mean he will drop the idea. But we are in agreement that we should first produce a harmonised international calendar."

Blatter said he hoped to have a harmonised calendar in place within 18 months but until then his plan for a biennial World Cup would be put on ice.

"Only once we have found out it is possible to have a har-

monised international calendar can we speak about it," said Blatter.

"I will not bring this idea now to the FIFA executive committee or the congress to a

vote before we have international calendar."

Johansson, who began the press conference by rebuking Blatter for floating his plan in the media without first consulting with UEFA, reiterated that he remains opposed to the plan.

But he added that he may not

feel the same 10 years from now.

"We are not convinced this is a good idea," said the Swede. "I haven't changed my attitude. I am not for the idea but I am for further discussion. It would be wrong to say I would think the same way 10 years from now."

"My statement came from the Executive Committee and they represent all European nations and the vast majority are against such a plan."

"But we have a number of years ahead and views can change."

Blatter said he would continue to quietly push his plan and was confident that over time Johansson and UEFA would see its benefits.

"I have not withdrawn the idea," assured Blatter. "The discussion on the international calendar is the top item."

"We then have to go back to the national associations and leagues and see how they can fit us from 2005 on into the international calendar."

"This must be done, in let us say, the next 18 months, and then we will have time enough to decide if we can have a World Cup every two years."

"They (UEFA) are not in favour of the idea but they have not closed the door."

# The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Friday 26th February  
(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

**BBC**  
6:00 BBC World News 6:05 USA Direct 6:30 World Living: Talking Movies 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 BBC World News 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 BBC World News 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 BBC World News 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 BBC World News 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 BBC World News 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 BBC World News 13:00 BBC World News 13:30 BBC World News 14:0