

### Lens in League Cup final

PARIS, Apr 18: Two goals in the last two minutes of extra-time gave French champions FC Lens a 2-0 League Cup semi-final win over Sochaux and revived their hopes of competing in the UEFA Cup next season, reports Reuters.

### Sydneysiders' protest plan

SYDNEY, Apr 18: A resident of Sydney's Bondi Beach vowed to lie in the path of bulldozers in a bid to stop the Olympic volleyball competition from being on the popular beach strip next year, reports AP.



Players and officials of Saudi Arabia's Al-Ittihad soccer team, which won the Asian Cup Winners' Cup, celebrating with the trophy in Tokyo on April 18.

### Al-Ittihad make Saudis proud

TOKYO, Apr 18: Two goals from Moroccan international Ahmed Bahja, including one in sudden-death extra time, saw Al-Ittihad become the third consecutive Saudi Arabian side to win the Asian Cup Winners' Cup when they defeated South Korea's Chunnam Dragons 3-2 today, reports Reuters.

Ten minutes into the second half his replacement, Park Chul-woo, was also heading for the treatment room after a rash tackle by Mohammed Al-Dagheeri that saw the Al-Ittihad man booked.

Defender Jou Yeong-ho went into goal and 15 minutes later the Koreans went into the lead for the first time. Roh striking for his fourth goal in two games when he slotted the ball home from the penalty spot.

### Jubilo stay on top

TOKYO, Apr 18 (Reuters/Internet): Jubilo Iwata took a four-point lead in J-League standings after a flying header from midfielder Takashi Fukunishi earned them a 1-0 victory at home over the Yamanashi F Marinos in seventh-round matches on Saturday.

### Aussie soccer

SYDNEY, Apr 18 (Reuters/Internet): Sydney United were forced to put their minor Premiership celebrations on hold following a 0-0 draw with lowly Gippsland Falcons in the Australian league on Sunday.

### Juve upset Lazio plans

ROME, Apr 18: France's Thierry Henry scored twice as league leaders Lazio crashed 3-1 at home to reigning champions Juventus yesterday, their second defeat in seven days at the Olympic Stadium, reports Reuters.

### Merson in need of help

LONDON, Apr 18: England international Paul Merson, a confessed alcoholic, told a British Sunday newspaper that he had relapsed "big time" in his battle against drink, reports Reuters.

### United go four points clear

LONDON, Apr 17 (Reuters/Internet): Goals by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Teddy Sheringham and Paul Scholes gave Manchester United a comfortable 3-0 home win over Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday to open a four point lead at the top of the English Premier league.

Solskjaer reacted sharply to shoot them ahead after 35 minutes and then crossed for Sheringham to glance in a clever header just before half-time.

Everton. "It was a terrific victory for us, especially after losing here 4-1 in the Cup recently," said Everton manager Walter Smith.

### Leverkusen sail on Kirsten

BONN, Apr 18 (Reuters/Internet): Three goals from Germany striker Ulf Kirsten helped Bayer Leverkusen hammer crisis-hit Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-1 in the German first division on Saturday.

and will on Monday name his team for a friendly against Scotland on April 28, could only be impressed.

Bochum, where VfB Stuttgart opened up a 3-0 lead thanks to Nigerian Jonathan Akpoborie, who struck in the 42nd, 45th and 53rd minutes.



Patrick Kluijvert (R) Barcelona's Dutch international striker, going past Mallorca's Argentine defender Lionel Siviero during their primera liga clash at Nou Camp on April 17. Barca won 2-1.

### China fixes swimming target

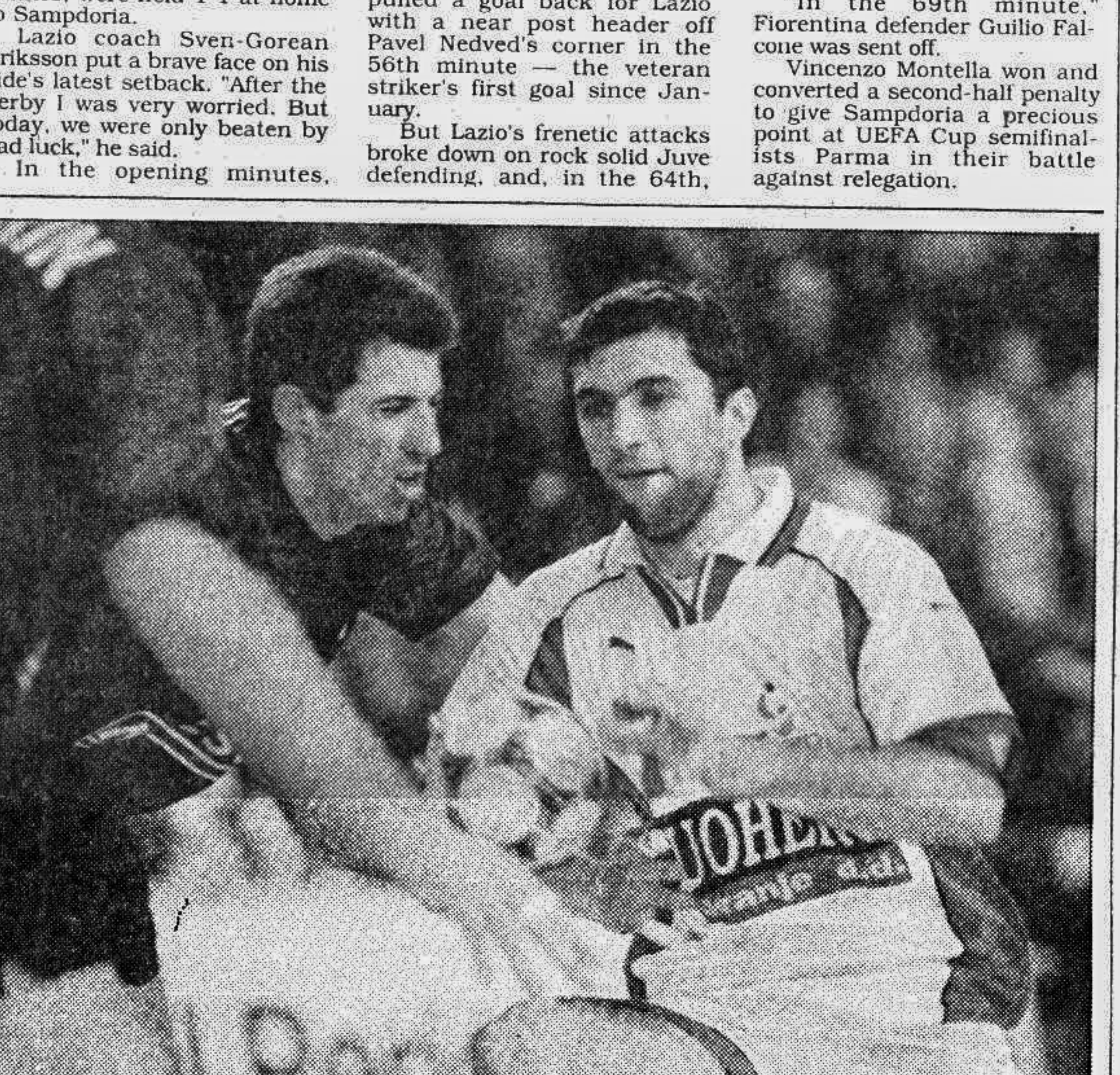
BEIJING, Apr 18: China's swimming association has set a low-key target for its swimmers at the Olympic Games in Sydney next year, state media reported today, says AFP.

### Vialli stands by Rix

LONDON, Apr 18: Chelsea player-manager Gianluca Vialli has given his public support to the club's decision to stand by jailed coach Graham Rix, reports AFP.

### Federation Cup roundup

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Action from the European Handball Cup match between Barcelona and Zagreb at Barcelona on April 17. The home team won 29-18.

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France split their opening singles and were tied 1-1 in Moscow. Italy and Spain also split in Reggio Calabria, and the United States led Croatia 2-0 at Raleigh, North Carolina.