

## Wanderley's words of wisdom

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 25: Playing for Brazil should motivate every player, national coach Wanderley Luxemburgo said in the wake of the latest withdrawal of unmotivated Leonardo from their Copa America squad, reports AFP.

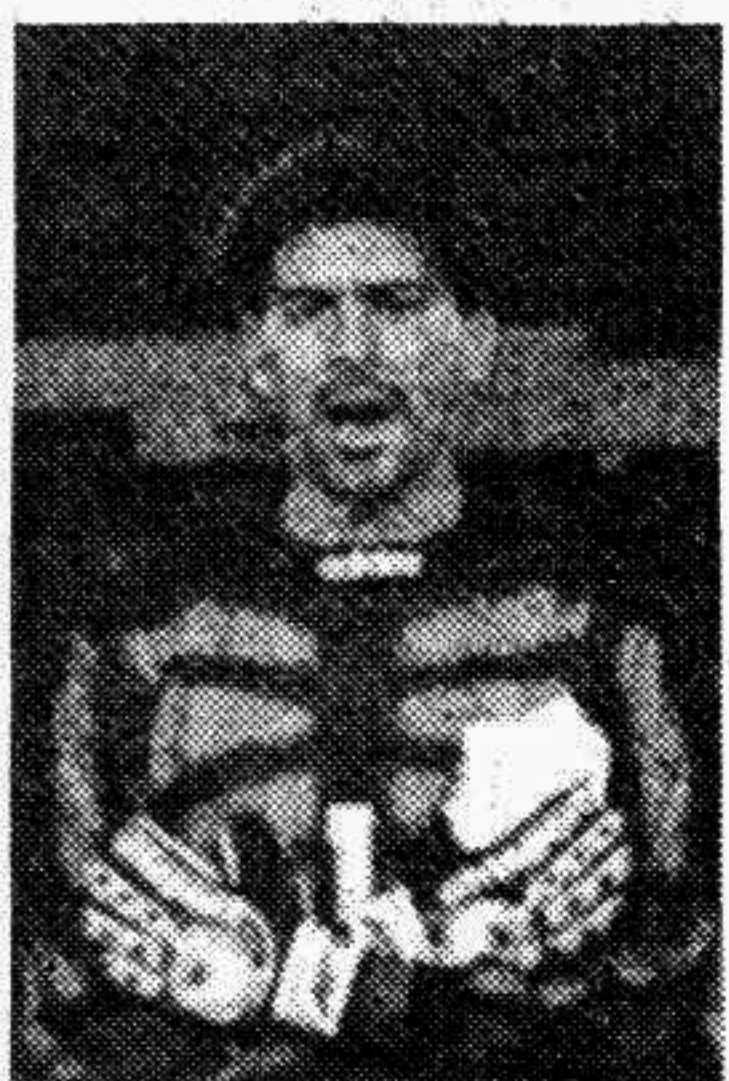
Luxemburgo has already dropped striker Edilson for indiscipline and called up 19-year-old Ronaldinho in his place, and Vasco da Gama's Juninho and Palmeiras midfielder Cesar Sampaio are ruled out with injuries.

The national team is the most important thing for a footballer. Whoever is called up should always be motivated, Luxemburgo said referring to Leonardo's pull-out.

Leonardo is the third player to quit the Copa squad after keeper Taffarel and defender Aldair.

Luxemburgo went on to say he did not believe the national side had lost its entertainment value. "I don't think Brazil has lost its attraction," he added. "The joy of Ronaldinho is proof of what Brazil really represents."

## Roa parts with football



PALMA DE MALLORCA, June 25 (Reuters/Internet): Mallorca's Argentine international goalkeeper Carlos Roa announced on Friday that he was giving up soccer and dedicating his life to religious work.

Roa, 29, had repeatedly hinted over the past six months that he was about to quit.

He is a devout member of the Church of the Seventh Day Adventists and has spent several times he was opposed to playing on Saturdays.

Roa was Argentina's first-choice goalkeeper at the World Cup finals last summer. On Monday he was presented with the Zamorra trophy, awarded each season to the most effective goalkeeper in the Spanish first division. He conceded 29 goals in 35 games.

Roa was instrumental in Mallorca having their best season, finishing third in the first division and reaching the European Cup Winners' Cup final. Roa told his club and team mates on Wednesday he was retiring, although he admitted he had made up his mind some time ago.

He's a great loss to Mallorca but I respect his decision, Mallorca president Guillermo Reyneis said.

...if he ever reconsiders his decision then he will be welcome to return and play for us again."

## Spanish soccer signings

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain, June 25: Real Sociedad have signed Colombian international striker Victor Bonilla, the Basque club said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Real said they bought Bonilla, 29, from Deportivo Cali in Colombia on a three-year contract. Spanish newspapers said he cost 640 million pesetas (\$3.98 million dollars).

Real Sociedad envisage Bonilla stepping into the shoes of their departing Yugoslav striker Darko Kovacevic, who is moving to Juventus for 19 million dollars after scoring 16 goals in the league last season.

Racing Santander said they had signed former Argentine international striker Marcelo Espina from Chile's Colo Colo on a four-year contract.

Espina will boost Racing's fire power for next season after speculation that former Spanish under-21 international Victor Sanchez and current Spanish international Pedro Muniz were looking for other clubs.

## Perec's plan

PARIS, June 25: France's 'forgotten' triple Olympic champion Marie-Jose Perec has broken her six month silence after believing her career was over because of illness to announce she has set her sights on the Sydney 2000 Olympics, reports AFP.

Perec, the Olympic 200m and 400m champion in 1996 and Barcelona winner in the 400m, said her Epstein-Barr virus, a nasty type of glandular fever, had left her feeling she would never run again.

She told L'Equipe newspaper that she felt as though she was dead, such was the severity of the anguish she was experiencing.

The 31-year-old from Guadeloupe won the 400m world title in 1995 but pulled out of the semifinals in Athens in 1997 and has not been on a track since, losing 12 kilos in that time.

Perec's said her next big aim now was to compete in the 400m in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and only in the Eville world championships in August if everything went well. I'm dreaming of a gold medal in Sydney. It would be a milestone in history," she said.

# Another Pakistan probe

ISLAMABAD, June 25 (AP/Reuters): Pakistan's accountability commission, which investigated charges of corruption against former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, now is investigating the country's World Cup cricket team, the state-run news agency reported Thursday.

The Ehtesab Bureau (Accountability Bureau) has confirmed that it had undertaken inquiries against the Pakistan team, the official APP news agency quoted unnamed bureau officials as saying.

"The Accountability Bureau says some players went overboard merry-making during the course of the World Cup in England, raising suspicions of deliberate surrender by the team in the final," APP said.

Pakistan were beaten by eight wickets by Australia at Lord's on Sunday in the most one-sided final since the competition began in 1975.

They were dismissed for 132 and Australia knocked off the runs in just 20.1 overs.

When Zafar Altaf, manager of Pakistan's World Cup squad,

returned home yesterday he blasted the national media for accusing the team of deliberately throwing the final.

A government-appointed judicial commission is already probing allegations of match-fixing in Pakistani cricket.

It is expected to submit its report to Pakistan President Rafiq Tarar in the second week of next month.

The commission will resume investigations at the end of the month when Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum has summoned former coach Javed Miandad and four alleged bookmakers.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)'s lawyer, Ali Sibtain Fazli, said the bookies were caught by police collecting bets during the World Cup.

Wasim Akram, Pakistan's World Cup captain, is one of three leading members of the current team being investigated over the match-fixing allegations which date back to the mid 1990s.

"The intelligence agencies have presented evidence of indiscipline, lack of coordination and planning by the management and the members of the cricket team," APP quoted an

official of the Accountability Bureau as saying. "We will call all the players and officials separately for them to present their side of the story."

It's not clear whether the team is being investigated on charges of match fixing or of "bringing the country's name into disrepute" which is a crime in Pakistan. The punishment could be a fine.

Also on Thursday amid the controversy, nine members of the cricket team returned to Pakistan via the southern port city of Karachi earlier Thursday.

A jeep with a machine gun mounted on top stood guard outside the airport to prevent attacks on the team.

However only two cricketers — Moin Khan and Shahid Afridi — stayed in Karachi, while the other seven took connecting flights to their homes elsewhere in Pakistan.

Earlier this week cricket-crazy fans in the Inzam-ul-Haq's hometown of Multan in eastern Punjab province took out a protest rally, burning tires and pelting Haq's home with rocks breaking windows and causing minor damage.

# Hussain knew about it?

LONDON, June 25: New England skipper Nasser Hussain said he had no illusions about the mighty challenge facing him to help turn around their fortunes from a poor side to world beaters, reports AFP.

Hussain, who was on Friday formally unveiled as the successor to Alec Stewart following Thursday's initial news, said he was proud to take on the task and will be thrown straight into the deep end with selection duties for next week's first Test.

New coach Duncan Fletcher met Hussain for the first time before the pair were paraded at Lord's as the new face of English cricket.

Both were looking forward to the challenge ahead but agreed the main objective was to boost English cricket after their disappointing first-round exit from the World Cup.

Hussain said: "We have got to start winning. People who play for England from now on must realise that's the most important thing."

"I'm not naive. It's going to be difficult. We have been inconsistent in the past but we've got to start putting things right now."

"We have got to win back the faith of the public. I stopped off on the way to Lord's today for some breakfast and someone shouted at me: 'You've got a job ahead of you'."

"I've done for England when we've done well and the British public have got right behind us and if we can start winning that will happen again. We won't take New Zealand lightly this summer. My aim is to beat them in a four-Test series."

Fletcher, who was targeted by South Africa as a successor to Bob Woolmer, said it had been tough to leave Glamorgan but was keen to stamp his own authority on the England dressing room after signing a two-year contract.

Fletcher said: "It's a great privilege to be involved in English cricket and hopefully with Nasser we can help turn things round a little bit. I'm not promising anything at this stage but I'm looking forward to it and hopefully we will be successful in the near future."

"I think my qualities include man-management and I've got to try to get England playing as a unit. Also, on the technical side, I would like to think I had something to offer when it comes to batting and bowling."

Hussain insisted deposed England skipper Stewart still had a future in international cricket, but his precise role within the set up was still to be finalised.

The new skipper suggested it

would be difficult for the Surrey star to continue to combine his roles of opening batsman and wicketkeeper.

He said: "Alec is a fighter and he will use this disappointment

to his advantage. He will fight and feel he's got a point to prove."

"He's too good a player to just write off like that. He gives the team umpteen dimensions."

## HUSSAIN PROFILE

LONDON, June 25 (AFP): Biographical details of captain Nasser Hussain after his appointment as England captain on Thursday:

1968: Born Madras, India, March 28.

1976: Youngest ever player to represent Essex Under-11 Schools, aged eight.

1980: Youngest ever player to represent Essex Under-15 Schools, aged 12.

1987: Makes senior debut for Essex.

1989: Wins Cricket Writers' Club young-cricketer-of-the-year award.

1990: Controversially chosen for England tour to West Indies ahead of another emerging young batsman, Michael Atherton. Played both innings of fifth Test in Antigua with broken wrist and misses most of the next season with the injury.

1993: Earns England recall for last four Tests of Ashes series.

1994: Chosen for England tour to West Indies but fails to play any Tests.

1996: Captains England A on successful tour to Pakistan. Recalled to full England side after three-year absence and scores first Test century in his first match back at Edgbaston and follows up with another hundred at Trent Bridge as England win series against India.

Fractures right index finger during that innings and misses first Test of series against Pakistan.

Chosen ahead of Alec Stewart as vice-captain for England's tour to Zimbabwe and New Zealand.

1997: Hits career-best 207 against Australia at Edgbaston to help England win the first Test, but passes 50 only once more in series. Selected for tour to West Indies.

1998: Struggles during West Indies series until century in the final Test in Antigua as England lose series 3-1. Announces his desire to captain England after Atherton steps down but Alec Stewart is appointed instead.

1998-99: Is England's most successful batsman in Ashes series defeat in Australia, second in batting averages (45.22), top in aggregate runs (407).

April — appointed Essex captain.

May — ends England's disappointing World Cup as the country's top batsman in the averages.

June 24 — appointed England captain.

## FLETCHER FACTFILE

DUNCAN ANDREW GWYNNE FLETCHER  
Born: 27 September 1948, Salisbury.

Major Teams: Zimbabwe, Rhodesia, Western Province.

Known As: Duncan Fletcher.

Batting Style: Left Hand Bat.

Bowling Style: Right Arm Medium Fast.

ODI Debut: Zimbabwe v Australia at Nottingham, World Cup, 1983.

Last ODI: Zimbabwe v West Indies at Birmingham, World Cup, 1983.

STATISTICAL RECORD

Tests

Batting: M I NO Runs HS Ave 100s 50s Ct St

Balls M R W Ave Best 5 10 SR Econ

Bowling: 0

One-day internationals

Batting: M I NO Runs HS Ave 100 50 Ct St

Bowling: 0 6 2 191 71 47.75 2

O M R W Ave Best 4w 5w SR Econ

Bowling: 50.1 5 221 7 31.57 4-42 1 - 43.0 4.40

# Hosts, Brazil enter qtrs

CHICAGO, June 25: Brazil and the United States took dramatically different paths into the Women's World Cup quarterfinals with first-round victories here Thursday, reports AFP.

Tiffany Milbrett scored twice and Michelle Akers scored once and forced an own goal to lead the US hosts past

Nigeria 7-1, punishing the Super Falcons after the Africans took an early lead in the Group A match.

Brazil's Sissi scored in the third and 63rd minutes in a 2-0 victory over Italy to seize command of Group B. Round-robin play will conclude with week-end matches to decide quarter-final qualification and pairings.

In Thursday's other matches at Portland, Oregon, North Korea defeated Denmark 3-1 in Group A and Germany dumped Mexico 6-0 in Group B.

Brazil and Germany will meet Sunday in Landover, Maryland, to decide the Group B winner. Italy could still deny the Germans a quarter-final berth. The Mexicans were the first team eliminated from title contention.

Nigeria stunned a sellout crowd of more than 68,000 people by taking the lead on Nkiru Okosiene's goal in the second minute. Their physical style and dyed-hair was a style and look unfamiliar to the US team.

But the hosts answered with record runs of three goals in four minutes and four in 13

minutes. Mia Hamm's centering pass deflected off a Nigerian defender trying to stop Akers in the 19th minute for the equalizer. Hamm scored her 11th international goal, a record for men or women, on a breakaway in the 20th minute.

Milbrett's first goal came in the 23rd minute followed by Kristine Lilly's goal in the 32nd minute and an Akers header in the 39th minute. Cindy Parlow added a header in the 42nd minute and Milbrett finished the scoring in the 83rd.



American Michelle Akers (R) heads the ball away from Nigerian Ifeanyichukwu Chieje during their women's World Cup soccer clash in Chicago on June 24. —AFP photo

## Leonardo loses appetite?

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 25: Brazil midfielder Leonardo walked out of the Copa America squad on Thursday, hinting he had lost motivation to play for the national team, reports Reuters.

His action brought another headache for coach Wanderley Luxemburgo, already at odds with fans who watch the team's training sessions and worried about the fitness of star striker Ronaldo.

Leonardo became the third member of last year's World Cup squad to distance himself from the set-up run by Luxemburgo, who has brought in a hardline disciplinary policy. Goalkeeper Taffarel and central defender Aldair both announced before the squad was picked last week that they wanted no part of it.

Leonardo, 30, and Luxemburgo insisted there had been no row. But Brazilian media reports speculated that the AC Milan midfielder had been unhappy at being told that he would lose captaincy to right-back Cafu.

"I give myself the right to be tired," Leonardo told a news conference in Foz de Iguaçu, the border town where Brazil are training for the tournament which starts in neighbouring Paraguay next week. "I don't think I'm in 100 per cent condition to be part of the national team."

Leonardo played for his country in the last two World Cups and was recalled to the squad for last month's friendlies against the Netherlands.

His departure will raise more questions about the working methods of Luxemburgo, who controversially omitted volatile strikers Romario and Edmundo from the squad and this week axed striker Edilson. This was after Edilson provoked opponents during a domestic game by juggling cheekily with the ball while play was in progress.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

MADRID, June 25 (Reuters): Facts and figures for tomorrow's Spanish Cup final between Atletico Madrid and Valencia in Seville:

Atletico Madrid are contesting their 16th final, having won nine of them. Valencia are in the final for the 15th time but have won only five times.

Atletico lost their first three Cup finals but have won all but three of the 12 in which they have appeared since 1960. They have won all their three finals in the 1990s, the last in 1996 when they beat Barcelona 1-0 after extra time to achieve the Spanish league and cup double for the first time in their history.

Valencia were beaten 2-1 by Deportivo Coruna in their last final in 1995. They won on their preceding appearance in 1979, beating Real Madrid 2-0 thanks to two goals from Argentine World Cup winner Mario Kempes.

The only time the two teams have met in the Cup final was in 1972 when Atletico won 2-1.

Both coaches were cup final winners in 1996 — Radomir Antic with Atletico in the Spanish Cup and Claudio Ranieri (now of Valencia) with Fiorentina in the Italian Cup.

Three survivors from Atletico's 1996 Cup final winning team are expected to start on Saturday — goalkeeper Francisco Molina and defenders Santi Denia and Delfi Geli.

Valencia won both league encounters with Atletico this season. They won 1-0 at home on the first weekend of the season last August with a goal from Miguel Angel Angulo. They won 2-1 away at the Vicente Calderon stadium in January with goals from Claudio Lopez and Angulo. Jose Mari Romero scoring for Atletico.

Manuel Diaz Vega, the most experienced referee on the Spanish First Division list, will be taking charge of his third Cup final on Saturday.

The Cup final will be the second soccer match to be staged in Seville's new Olympic stadium, which was inaugurated with a friendly international between Spain and Croatia on May 5. Valencia had Santiago Canizares and Gaizka Menditea playing for Spain and Goran Vlaovic playing for Croatia that night but no Atletico player took part.

Although most Spanish Cup finals have been played in Madrid the event is regularly staged at other venues. Seville is the fourth-largest city in Spain but it is the first time since 1925 and only the second time ever that the final has been played there.

The new Olympic stadium has had its capacity cut by 8,000 for the match to 50,000. It has 48 VIP boxes.

Each club has been allocated 20,000 tickets. Atletico fans will be travelling to Seville on 11 high-speed chartered AVE trains, four regular service AVE trains and 170 coaches. Valencia fans have chartered one special train, have two chartered planes and two regular service flights as well as 150 coaches.

## Simone slams St. Germain

MONACO, June 25: Monaco's new Italian signing Marco Simone, made the scapegoat by Paris Saint Germain for their poor season, hit back at the club on Friday, reports AFP.

"At Paris I didn't have a problem but I did with PSG. It is very easy to find a scapegoat. If everyone thinks it's me, I will accept it, but both my mother and father said in case of a problem, it's a collective responsibility," said the Italian who has signed a three year contract with Monaco.



Brazilian international Leonardo (L) talking to the press during a conference in Foz de Iguaçu on June 24. Team coach Wanderley Luxemburgo is to his left. —AFP photo

# Atletico, Valencia clash for cup glory

MADRID, June 25 (Reuters/Internet): Valencia and Atletico Madrid, both already assured European competition next season, contest the Spanish Cup final on Saturday buoyed by good results.

"I don't think there can be a favourite but I am very happy with the way my team looks. We are in a good frame of mind and

very prepared for this match," Atletico coach Radomir Antic said.

This Real is the most important game in my sporting career. My bet is that we are going to win and that this game will turn into a transcendental moment in the history of this team," Valencia's international goalkeeper Santiago Canizares said with a touch of hyperbole.

There is little to choose between the two teams in recent

form despite the fact that Valencia finished fourth in the league and Atletico had to settle for 13th.

Valencia qualified for the Champions League last Sunday — their first appearance in Europe's top club competition since 1972 — and that has assured Atletico the place in the UEFA Cup which goes with the Spanish Cup, irrespective of the outcome of Saturday's final.

Valencia secured Spain's fourth Champions League berth ahead of Celta Vigo thanks to Atletico, who inflicted the first home defeat on the Galician club in almost two seasons on the last day of the league season while Valencia beat Real Mallorca 3-0.

Atletico have won three matches in a row, beating Real Madrid and Celta in the league and Deportivo Coruna in the Cup semifinal.

Antic has gone to Seville, where the Cup final will be staged for the first time since 1925, with fewer injury worries among a battle-scarred squad which has lost strikers Kiko Narvaez and Fernando Correa.

Czech international midfielder Radek Bejbl is back to full fitness, which means there is unlikely to be a place in the starting line-up for either Roberto Firmino or Santiago Solari.

Atletico's controversial president Jesus Gil, who is facing fraud and embezzlement charges which he denies, will be missing from the royal box where he watched his team win the Cup finals of 1991, 1992 and 1996.

He has been denied the traditional invitation to Cup final club presidents to sit in the royal box alongside King Juan Carlos and, instead, has hired his own VIP box in Seville's new Olympic stadium.

The match will be an emotional experience for departing Valencia coach Claudio Ranieri, who offered champagne to all the media at his pre-Cup final news conference on Thursday.

Ranieri has revitalised Valencia beyond recognition in two years with the club. He is expected to return to his native Italy for family reasons, although ironically he has also been linked with Atletico Madrid.

Probable teams:

Atletico Madrid: Francisco Molina; Michele Serena, Jose Antonio Chamot, Santi Denia, Delfi Geli; Radek Bejbl; Jordi Lardir, Juan Carlos Valeron, Carlos Aguilera; Jose Mari Romero, Juninho.

Valencia: Santiago Canizares; Amadeo Carboni, Miroslav Djukic, Alain Roche or Jovelyn Anglona; Francisco Farinos, Luis Milla, Gaizka Menditea, Miguel Angel Angulo; Adrian Ilie, Goran Vlaovic, Claudio Lopez.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

MADRID, June 25 (Reuters): Spanish Cup final results since 1946:

CHAMPIONS		RUNNERS-UP	
1945-46	*Real Madrid	3 Valencia	1
1946-47	Real Madrid	2 Espanyol	0
1947-48	Seville	4 Celta Vigo	1
1948-49	Valencia	1 Athletic Bilbao	0
1949-50	Athletic Bilbao	4 Valladolid	1
1950-51	Barcelona	3 Real Sociedad	0
1951-52	Barcelona	4 Valencia	2
1952-53	Barcelona	2 Athletic Bilbao	0
1953-54	Valencia	3 Barcelona	1
1954-55	Athletic Bilbao	1 Seville	0
1955-56	Athletic Bilbao	2 Atletico Madrid	0
1956-57	Barcelona	1 Espanyol	1
1957-58	Athletic Bilbao	2 Real Madrid	0
1958-59	Barcelona	4 Granada	1
1959-60	Atletico Madrid	3 Real Madrid	1
1960-61	Atletico Madrid	2 Seville	2
1961-62	Real Madrid	3 Real Zaragoza	1
1962-63	Barcelona	2 Atletico Madrid	1
1963-64	Real Zaragoza	1 Real Zaragoza	0
1964-65	Atletico Madrid	2 Athletic Bilbao	0
1965-66	Real Zaragoza	2 Athletic Bilbao	0
1966-67	Valencia	1 Real Madrid	1
1967-68	Barcelona	1 Elche	0
1968-69	Athletic Bilbao	3 Valencia	1
1969-70	Real Madrid	4 Valencia	3
1970-71	Barcelona	2 Valencia	1
1971-72	Atletico Madrid	2 Castella	0
1972-73	Athletic Bilbao	4 Barcelona	0
1973-74	Real Madrid	0 Atletico Madrid	0
1974-75	Real Madrid	1 Real Zaragoza	0
1975-76	Atletico Madrid	2 Athletic Bilbao	2
1976-77	Real Betis	3 Las Palmas	1
1977-78	Barcelona	2 Real Madrid	0
1978-79	Valencia	6 Castilla	1
1979-80	Real Madrid	3 Sporting Gijon	1
1980-81	Barcelona	2 Sporting Gijon	1
1981-82	Real Madrid	2 Real Madrid	1
1982-83	Barcelona	1 Barcelona	0
1983-84	Athletic Bilbao	2 Athletic Bilbao	0
1984-85	Atletico Madrid	1 Barcelona	0
1985-86	Real Zaragoza	2 Athletic Madrid	0
1986-87	Real Sociedad	1 Real Sociedad	2
1987-88	Barcelona	1 Valladolid	0
1988-89	Real Madrid	2 Real Madrid	0
1989-90	Barcelona	1 Mallorca	0
1990-91	Atletico Madrid	2 Real Madrid	0
1991-92	Atletico Madrid	2 Real Zaragoza	0
1992-93	Real Madrid	0 Celta Vigo	0
1993-94	Real Zaragoza	2 Valencia	1
1994-95	Deportivo Coruna	1 Barcelona	0
1995-96	Atletico Madrid	3 Real Betis	2
1996-97	Barcelona	1 Mallorca	0
1997-98	Barcelona		