

## European final venues to be named earlier

GENEVA, July 3 (Reuters/Internet): The venues for the European and UEFA Cup finals are to be chosen a year in advance in future, European soccer's governing body said on Friday.

"It was decided we should nominate the venue of the final and at the same time the venue for the following year," UEFA general secretary Gerhard Aigner said at the end of two days of executive board meetings.

"Later this year we will designate the venue of next year's final and at the same time the venue for the following year," UEFA said.

UEFA, which previously decided towards the end of each year only the venues for the final and the following May, said it made the move to help remove organisational problems and ensure the smooth running of its two showcase events.

"This gives us the advantage that the organisers of the second year can be involved in the organisation the previous year and we don't have to undergo the same learning process every year," said Aigner.

UEFA also announced the formation of an advisory board that will work with the governing body on the revamped Champions' League and UEFA Cup.

Manchester United, Juventus, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Ajax and Bordeaux were named directly to the board while FC Porto, Spartak Moscow and Olympiakos were drawn from a list of clubs ranked 7-15 in the UEFA rankings.

UEFA also said it will introduce more out of competition doping controls and increase the number of controls in all competitions in the coming season.

## Anelka will be Lazio's by next week

ROME, July 3: The transfer of Arsenal's French international forward Nicolas Anelka to Italian Serie A giants Lazio will be concluded early next week, Italian television reported here on Saturday, reports AFP.

This follows a lightning visit paid to London on Friday by Lazio director Vincenzo Morabito to finalise deals with Arsenal officials for the transfer of Anelka to the Roman side.

"We're waiting for the green light from the English club bosses to finalise the deal. With Anelka everything is already sorted out. I think that we will announce the conclusion of the transfer next Tuesday or Wednesday," said Morabito.

Arsenal have been accused of stalling on the long drawn-out deal -- and the Roman club have made it clear they are running out of patience.

Meanwhile, Claude Anelka, brother and adviser to Nicolas, told AFP on Friday, that the 20-year-old was ready to go on strike if the deal wasn't concluded quickly.

Under the deal struck with Arsenal's agents it is reported that the player will receive an annual salary of 6 million lire (3 million dollars) and Arsenal 63 million lire (32.5 million dollars) to break his contract.

Anelka was signed by Arsenal in 1997 for 500,000 pounds and has since established himself in the French international side and was voted young player of the year by his fellow professionals in England.

## Russell's new landmark

LONDON, July 3 (Internet): Jack Russell claimed his 1,000th first-class catch as Gloucestershire battled to maintain the upper hand at Bristol.

Former England wicket-keeper Russell reached the milestone when diving full length to the leg side to dismiss Tim Robinson off Jon Lewis at the start of Nottinghamshire's second innings.

Russell's landmark put him in an illustrious group of only seven wicketkeepers to have claimed 1,000 first-class catches, headed by Bob Taylor who took 1,473 in his career.

## Job for Lens

LENS, France, July 3: Cameroon international Joseph Desire Job has signed a five-year deal with French First Division side Lens from rivals Lyon, it was confirmed here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The transfer sum for the 21-year-old striker is reported to be in the region of 3.5 million dollars.

A club spokesman said that Job after undergoing a medical test in the club's headquarters in northwestern France and will join his team during a training session at Aix-Les-Bains in the Alps on Sunday.

The signing of Job completes the Lens lineup for the coming season, where he will play in attack alongside Daniel Moreira, Pascal Nouma and Lamine Sakho.

## Karatekas off to Japan

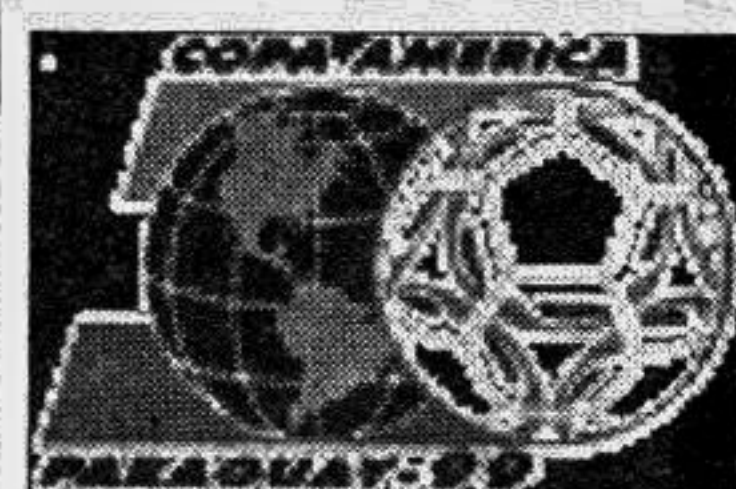
A two-member team left for Japan yesterday to participate in the third ladies' International Karate Do Cup to be held from July 10-11 in Tokyo. The team is sponsored by Rang Group, Mona Financial Consultancy & Securities Limited, Mohd Shahidullah (Shaymoli) & Co., Premium Securities and Bengal School of Shotokan, says a press release.



Paraguay's Roque Santa Cruz (C) sidefoots the ball past the Japanese goalie during their Copa America encounter on July 2.

— AFP photo

## Peru enter quarters



ASUNCION, July 3: A goal two minutes from time by Israel Zuniga handed Peru a 1-0 win over Bolivia on Friday to send the Peruvians through to the quarterfinals of the Copa America, reports AFP.

As the Peruvians celebrated booking their passage from Group A Zuniga immediately blotted his copybook, however, when he was sent off in the final seconds.

Tournament hosts Paraguay meanwhile crushed a hapless Japan 4-0 before a 40,000 crowd with two goals each for Miguel Benitez and Roque Santa Cruz, leaving the Japanese rooted to the bottom of the table after two defeats.

Benitez, who plays his club football with Spain's Espanyol, drew first blood after 18 minutes and Santa Cruz put the issue virtually beyond doubt with the second five minutes before the break.

Benitez, who only made the squad following an injury to Jose Cardozo of Mexican side Toluca, made it 3-0 on the hour and Santa Cruz rounded things off with the fourth after 87 minutes.

Santa Cruz's performance will have delighted the watching Franz Beckenbauer, president of his new club Bayern Munich.

The Peruvians, who opened their campaign by beating Japan 3-2, struggled to get past a jam-packed Bolivian defence but a late substitution by coach Juan Carlos Oblitas finally opened the breach as he sent Zuniga for Flavio Maestri with just five minutes remaining.

And an eventful five minutes it proved as the FC Melgar striker promptly found the net with a fine drive after cutting in from the left -- only to be dismissed almost straight after the restart for a crude foul.

Peru had the lions' share of the possession throughout as Newcastle United winger Nolberto Solano and Roberto Palacios of Mexico's Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara wreaked havoc down the flanks, but they failed to make their dominance count until Zuniga's spectacular late contribution.

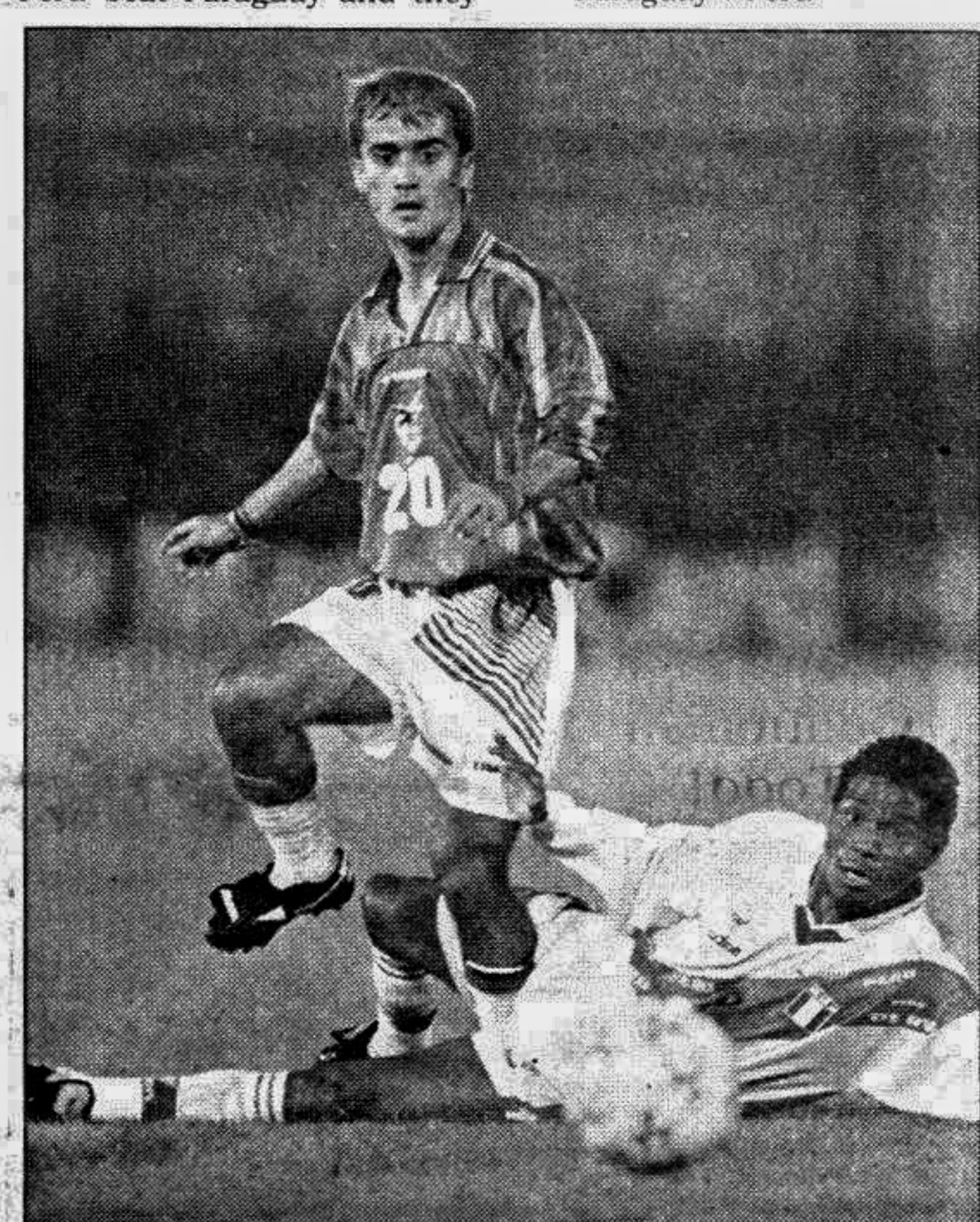
The Peruvians, who now have a two-point lead, will now try for top spot with Paraguay when the two meet Monday in their final group game.

Bolivia, runners up at high altitude and on home ground two years ago, can only squeak through into the second phase if Peru beat Paraguay and they

themselves beat Philippe Troussier's disappointing Japanese.

GROUP A TABLE										
ASUNCION, July 3 (AFP) - Copa America Group A table after matches played Friday (Played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):										
Peru	2	2	0	0	4	2	6			
Paraguay	2	1	1	0	4	0	4			
Bolivia	2	0	1	1	0	1	1			
Japan	2	0	0	2	2	7	0			

NEXT MATCHES MONDAY										
Japan v Bolivia										
Paraguay v Peru										



Peru's Juan Jayo is off balanced by Renny Ribera of Bolivia during their Group A Copa America match on July 2.

— AFP photo

## Spicy marriage today!

DUBLIN, July 3 (AFP): In a match of celebrity glamour and football glory, Manchester United pin-up David Beckham marries his Posh Spice fiancée Sunday in the luxury surroundings of an Irish castle.

It certainly promises more glitz than last month's royal wedding of Queen Elizabeth's youngest son Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones.

Beckham, 24, is already a millionaire midfielder maestro idolised across the world for his pin-up looks as much as his silky talents for club and country.

Victoria Adams, 25, is better known as Posh Spice, a multi-millionaire in her own right thanks to the pop-hype super-group Spice Girls.

They've been called the celebrity couple of the decade, worth an estimated 25 million pounds (40 million dollars), with a mutual taste for the high life and a seemingly cast-iron devotion to each other.

On Sunday, two years after they met, they will tie the knot.



The beautiful Luttrellstown Castle mansion. The castle situated in its own estate close to Dublin is the venue for today's wedding of England and Manchester United midfielder David Beckham and pop star Victoria Adams.

— AFP file photo

## How could they?

OUAGADOUGOU, July 3: Eleven players of Burkina Faso army side Armed Forces Sporting Union (USFA) had their heads shaved and were imprisoned for one night after having lost a decisive championship match, the 'Journal du soir' newspaper reported Friday, reports AFP.

USFA were beaten 1-0 by Bobo-Dioulasso, who are bottom of the Burkina Faso First Division -- effectively ending their title hopes.

The club president Commander Zourmana Traore said: "It's true that it was only football but the people concerned must realise that they are soldiers and playing in football in the army is not simply sport but is a mission."

"If the soldiers who play football can not save their honour then I think they will not be able to defend the country if they are needed."

"If had them shaved it is to show that every time they have to defend the army's honour they must undertake their task with all seriousness."

## Ronaldo only knows

FOZ DE IGUAZU, Brazil, July 3: After a miserable season hampered by injury, Brazilian superstar Ronaldo says he will use the Copa America to show the world he is back in his dazzling best, reports AFP.

The Inter Milan striker went some way to answering the critics with two goals in Brazil's 7-0 swamping of Venezuela in their first Group B match midweek, and he insists that is just the start.

"I want to get back on track gradually without too much hardship," said Ronaldo, who has so far had a nightmare year and who recently suffered the indignity of being voted Brazil's second worst footballer in a recent magazine poll.

That was all forgotten as he delivered a five-star turn in the Venezuela match.

Ronaldo has added competition at the Copa from budding star Ronaldo Gaucha, but he is ready to rise to the challenge after weeks of hard graft getting back to fitness under the watchful eye of physio Nilton Petrone.

"I have a single objective -- I want to get back to being the best in the world," said Ronaldo, who has hit three goals in two games since returning to the national side.

"We want to win this tournament and be South American champions, and I intend to get better and better along the way," said Ronaldo in a stark warning to his country's rivals.

"I want to score goals but my first goal is to recover my physical and technical form," said Ronaldo, who added he didn't mind not being top scorer as long as Brazil lifted the trophy.

His own tip for the goalscorer crown will raise a few eyebrows in Brazil -- Ronaldo says Argentina's Martin Palermo is the man with the most dangerous shooting boots in the tournament.

Palermo, like Ronaldo, opened with a double salvo in a 3-1 win against Ecuador.

Ronaldo is looking to help boost Brazil's moderate record in the Copa, which they have won just five times -- compared to 14 wins for Argentina and Uruguay.

Four of Brazil's triumphs were on home soil but they are the holders this time round after winning the most recent edition in Bolivia two years ago.

Asked which sides would make the final Ronaldo unhesitatingly plumped for Argentina and Brazil.

"Given their footballing tradition and their high technical ability, they have without a doubt what it takes to take the title," he said.

Ronaldo said he was delighted with the progress shown by the 'other' Ronaldo, Ronaldo de Assis Moreira, otherwise known as Gaucha, who scored a superb goal against Venezuela.

"I am proud to be playing alongside him. The lad is desperate to hold down a place and the way he is playing he'll do just that," said Ronaldo.

## Johnson back with a bang

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, July 3: Michael Johnson looked invincible as ever while the world's fastest man Maurice Greene proved to be beatable, finishing second in the 100 metres at the Lausanne Grand Prix athletics meeting on Friday, reports Reuters.

Johnson, showing no sign of the thigh injury that prevented him from racing Greene in the US championships at the weekend, got his European season off to a blistering start by surging to victory in the 400 metres.

The double Olympic champion, with his sights set on Butch Reynolds's 400m record, looked every bit capable of claiming the long-standing mark this northern summer.

He stormed home unchallenged in a season's best of 43.92 ahead of compatriot Jerome Young, who was a distant second in 44.34.

Trinidad's Ato Boldon ruined Greene's debut race in Europe as the newly-crowned world record holder when he shot to victory in the 100 metres, pushing his training partner into second.

On an ideal night for sprinting, Boldon clocked a sizzling 9.86 seconds for the fourth time in his career, rocketing across the line ahead of Greene, who was timed at 9.93.

Boldon, second to Greene in Athens three weeks ago when the American ran 9.79 to demolish the world mark of 9.84 held by Canadian Donovan Bailey, powered away from his friend in the final 10 metres.

## Final four clash today



LANDOVER, Maryland, July 3: A confident Chinese team attempts to dethrone Norway while hosts United States take on women's World Cup scoring leader Sissi and Brazil in Sunday's semifinals of the football tournament, reports AFP.

The winners play July 10 in the final at the Rose Bowl, where a crowd of nearly 80,000 is expected to cap a grand total of 600,000 spectators at the largest women-only sports event ever conducted.

The Chinese made their third of four flights across the United States to face Norway in Foxboro, Massachusetts, while the US team makes its first such trek to meet Brazil in Palo Alto, California.

"We haven't rested very often," Chinese coach Ma Yuanan said.

Despite difficulties obtaining favoured rice over pasta and having flown 27,435 km -- more than twice as much as any rival -- since leaving Shanghai a month ago, the Chinese are optimistic they will advance.

"We're 100 per cent sure we will advance to the final," China's Fu Wei said.

Barring China's path are the Norwegians, who have overcome injuries and will match the Asian champions' superior speed and pressure with long passes and the experience of reaching the 1991 and 1995 Cup finals.

"It's going to be tough. They always are," Norway coach Per Mathias Hogmo said. "But we are prepared."

US-China tensions were raised by the NATO bombing of China's embassy in Yugoslavia that killed three people. The US beat China in the 1996 Olympic final but have lost twice to Portugal and in April at New Jersey to snap a 50-match US unbeaten streak on home soil.

The US-Brazil match, set for the US Independence Day holiday, will occur in the same stadium and exactly five years to the day from when Brazil's men beat the US team 1-0 on their way to the 1994 World Cup title.

"Every game is a different story. Sometimes it can be the same story. If we can emulate what happened in the stadium five years ago, our dream will come true," Brazil coach Wilson de Oliveira Rica said.

"We have a chance to win the championship. The US is a team with no weaknesses. It's a well trained, fit and balanced team. We're sure this will be the best match of the championship."

The Brazilians squandered a 3-0 lead against Nigeria in a quarterfinals here before Sissi scored her Cup-best seventh goal in the 104th minute off a free kick. Sissi knows the Brazilians cannot afford such a lapse Sunday.

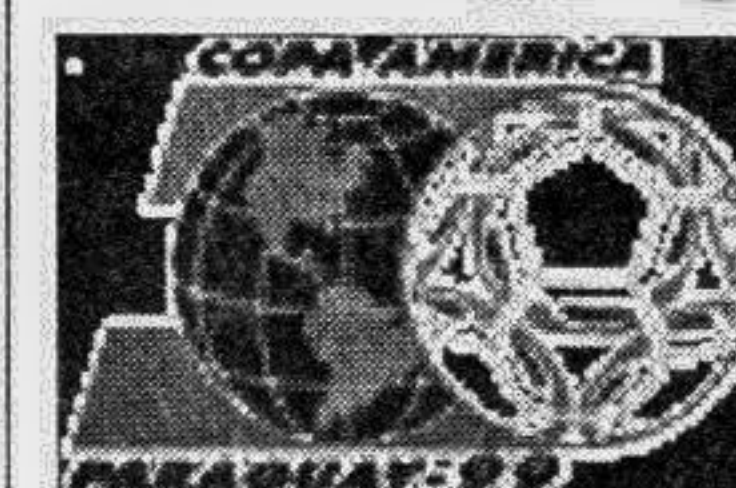
"The Americans are very well trained and have prepared extremely well," Sissi said. "We can only hope to achieve the results the men did. We're going to try. Whatever our results, we will hold our heads high."

The US team surrendered an own goal early to fall behind Germany in the quarterfinals but rallied. The Americans had allowed Nigeria the first goal before a first-round comeback. But the trend is worrisome for the hosts.

"We can't keep playing that game of Russian Roulette. Sooner or later, you're going to get the bullet," said Mia Hamm, the US forward and all-time international goal scoring leader.

"We can't keep falling behind these teams. They're too good," added US coach Tony DiCicco.

## Brazil v Mexico: Warheads ready to launch



ASUNCION, Paraguay, July 3 (AP): Brazil's samba party is going a little wild. But Mexico's potent strikers may make Saturday's showdown between the Copa America rivals a night for mariachi music.

The Brazilian juggernaut, led by Ronaldo and Amoroso, has gotten off to a strong start in the region's biggest showcase tournament, the Copa America.

Fresh from a 7-0 pummeling of Venezuela in their Copa opener, Brazil meet Mexico on Saturday in Group B, perhaps the toughest of the three groups in the tournament. Elsewhere on Saturday, Chile will meet Venezuela in the first match.

While much pre-tournament hype focused on the Brazilian and Chilean front lines, Mexico demonstrated a deadly firepower of their own in strikers Cuauhtemoc Blanco and Luis Hernandez.

Hernandez, who topped the scorers list in the 1997 Copa America with six goals, notched Mexico's winning goal Wednesday night off a feed from Blanco as Mexico defeated Chile 1-0.

Wanderley Luxemburgo, the Brazilian coach, is acutely aware that Mexico pose a much greater menace than Venezuela, who have not won a game in the Copa America in more than 30 years.

"Mexico are respectable rivals with substantial experience, with several World Cups under their belt," said Luxemburgo.

Nonetheless, he is confident. "Our artillery is loaded," he said.

If Brazil's lopsided victory over Venezuela is any sign, Mexico will have their hands full.

Ronaldo, the two-time FIFA player-of-the-year, appears to have returned in style after being sidelined much of the year after recovering from a knee injury.

While Ronaldo alone is Boksic buys vacation spot

ROME, July 3 (AFP): Lazio star Alen Boksic will be able to get away from all the pressures of Serie A in between matches next season.

The former Marseille and Juventus striker has bought a little island 'La Mariaska' off the Dalmatian coast, according to Italian daily Panorama.

Boksic may have more time than he would like to enjoy the hideaway as he could face a season of reserve football if Lazio manage to prise out French international Nicolas Anelka from Arsenal.

enough to make any opponent nervous, add to that Amoroso -- the other half of Brazil's 'Amro' tandem who was last season's leading scorer in Italy -- and you potentially have the world's most lethal front line.

But wait, there's more: Ronaldinho, the 19-year-old scoring sensation known as "Ronaldo II."

A last minute addition to the national team after Edmundo was passed over, Ronaldinho scored a breathtaking goal against Venezuela Wednesday night, tapping the ball over a defender and speeding around him to blast home his first goal.

The following day, his feat was trumpeted across sports pages as far away as Italy.

"Everybody goes crazy about the little Pele ... Ronaldinho scores a wonderful goal and becomes the dream of all teams in the world," wrote Italy's sports daily Corriere dello Sport.

Faced with that offensive Arsenal, Mexican coach Manuel Lapuente said his team will not retreat into defensive mode. Staying back "to play defence against Brazil would be suicide," he declared.

Lapuente should be encouraged by the success of his defence unit, led by veterans Claudio Suarez and Pavel Porde, against Chile's Italian league strikers, Marcelo Salas and Ivan Zamorano. The Mexican defence smothered the 'ZaSa' duet of Salas and Zamorano in their opener.

"Against Venezuela we're going all out because it's the only hope we have of a (winning)," said Zamorano, the Chilean captain.

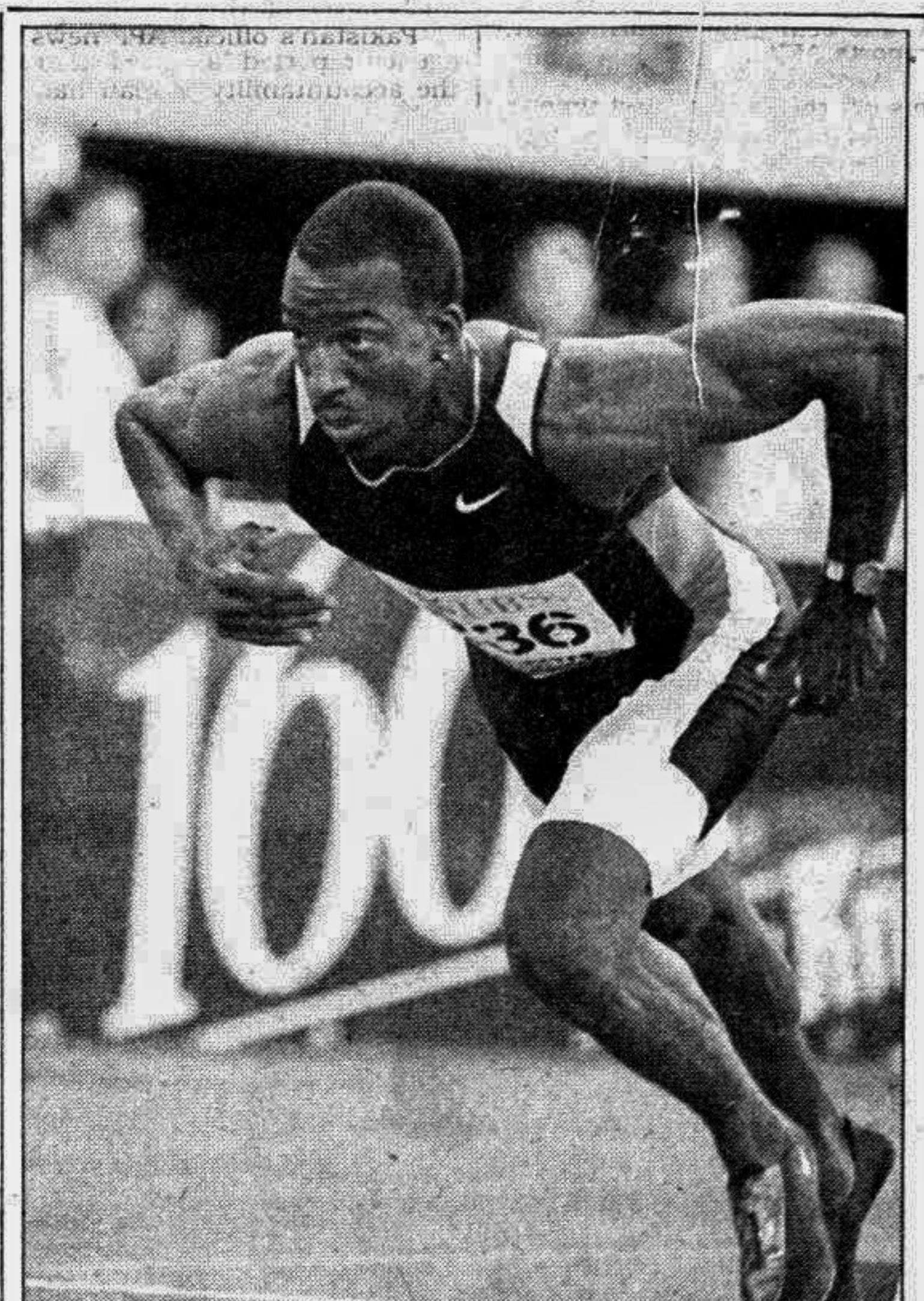
Eight teams advance to the next round, including the top two teams in each of the three groups, plus two third-place finishers. After Venezuela, Chile will face Brazil.

"We are in the same situation as always," said Salas. "Having to win."

Chile's chances should be good against a Venezuela team still shell-shocked from their loss to Brazil.

Venezuela had conjured up high hopes of a turnaround from their abysmal tournament record by fielding one of their more competitive teams in years.

Brazil put more than just a dent in that early optimism. "It was a devastating blow," said Zaidy Gotsos, president of Venezuelan soccer.



American double Olympic champion Michael Johnson bursts off the blocks during the 400 metres at the Lausanne leg of the Golden League series on July 2.

— AFP photo

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Vampire-killer's need

6 Cough-lanes

11 Not so fresh

12 Pair awaiting Godot, e.g.

14 "Das Lied von der Erde" composer

15 Baffler

16 -- Amin

17 Aristocratic

19 Hodges of baseball lore

20 Super-market stack

22 Section of L.A.?

23 Choir member

24 Succinct poem

26 Separating

28 Bat wood

30 Sandy's comment

31 Team bigwig

35 Agave plant

39 Suit to --

40 Journey segment

42 Aerobic maneuver

43 Deterioration

44 It'll stop falling hair

46 Scull need

47 "Peer Gynt" girl

49 Warp

51 Leash

52 Nests with great views

53 Run-down

54 Laundry

mat fixture

1 Arenas

2 Sesame paste

3 The whole shootin' match

4 Acute

5 Mr. Flynn

6 Area of Manhattan

7 Unrivaled

8 -- Wan

9 Fastener

10 Arab or Jew

11 The Frugal Gourmet

13 Beauty parlor

18 Go up and down

21 Emulate

23 Terrible

25 "Born in the --"

27 Give it a go

29 Everest conqueror

31 Gemstone weight

32 Expatriates

33 Dress-shop section

34 Ultramodern

36 Snap, maybe

37 Fuel carrier

38 -- moi, le deluge

41 Rot

44 Barney's pal

45 One who regrets

48 Word ignored in alphabetizing

50 Johnnie Ray hit

Solution time: 28 mins.

MAISTS BAN HST  
ALOHIA TIF UOT  
EELION SIO UOT  
VERTICE ROOT  
BEE ARC MARKS  
URNS ATBAT  
METHOD LOOSEN  
ARENA ROTO  
LAIRVA ADDIE LAW  
ALOE BREZE  
SOLDIER MEDEA  
ENE ADO IRANI  
REX MEW TODDS

Yesterdays answer

CRYPTOQUIP

P S F N R Z J G S F L M D R O P J  
J U Q J U D H F O J L Q J J D M Z  
N O X D R E D H J E G  
E Q Z X D M H O H P U D P X H ?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE AMOROUS LION  
TO HIS MISSUS: "EVERY DAY I LOVE YOU ROAR AND ROAR."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: P equals C

The Cryptoquip 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.