

## Ward ton puts Surrey on top

LONDON, Aug 25 (AFP): Runaway English County Championship leaders Surrey made a commanding start to their match against Derbyshire at Derby on Tuesday.

After being put in by home captain Dominic Cork, Surrey moved on to 285 for five.

The Surrey total included a maiden championship century for opener Ian Ward and 89 from England batsman Graham Thorpe.

Leicestershire, meanwhile, were under pressure after being bowled out for 214 against Gloucestershire at Grace Road.

Gloucestershire finished the day on 92 for two in reply.

Australian Michael Kasprowicz top-scored with 61 for Leicestershire and also took the wicket of Gloucestershire opener Robert Cunliffe.

Gavin Hamilton claimed five for 30 and Craig White returned figures of four for 44 as Yorkshire took early command against Nottinghamshire, who is also all out for 184.

Yorkshire were then in desperate trouble at 39 for five before White (36) and Hamilton (23) led a middle-order fight-back of sorts. At the close Yorkshire were 100 for seven.

There were half centuries from Owais Shah and Mark Ramprakash as Middlesex were bowled out for 222 against Durham at the Riverside but by the close of play, Durham had progressed to 55 for no wicket.

There was a career-best haul of four for 46 for Essex paceman David Thompson as Somerset were dismissed for 249 at Chelmsford.

Piran Holloway top-scored with 60 and then Essex steered their way through the first over to finish four without loss at the close.

At Southampton, Sussex were 102 for two at stumps in a rain-affected game against Hampshire.

No play was possible because of rain in the other three matches.

## Seedorf will cost 25 million dollars

MADRID, Aug 25: Real Madrid have rejected a 20-million-dollar offer from Italian Serie A outfit Inter Milan for Dutch international Clarence Seedorf and have put a price tag of 25 million dollars for his transfer, the Spanish daily *As* here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old midfielder has made no secret of his dissatisfaction with John Toshack's side particularly after spending 90 minutes kicking his heels during 1st Saturday's opening day Spanish league win at Mallorca.

"I am irritated but calm. If the coach doesn't want me I will have to sort the problem out with the club as soon as I can," said Seedorf.

"I want to stay and for things to work themselves out but I don't see myself on the bench."

Italian sides Juventus and AS Roma are also reported to be interested in recruiting the Dutch player.

However, Seedorf remained tight-lipped on Tuesday. "I haven't spoken to any Italian club, but I don't know about approaches that by agent may have made," he told journalists.

Seedorf arrived at Real in 1996 from Italian Serie A side Sampdoria.

## Swedish team For Euro 2000 qualifiers

STOCKHOLM, Aug 25 (AFP): Sweden coach Tommy Söderberg on Tuesday announced his squad for the Group Five Euro 2000 qualifiers against Bulgaria on September 4 and Luxembourg on September 8.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Magnus Hedman (Coventry/Eng), Magnus Kihlstedt (Brann/Nor)

**Defenders:** Patrik Andersson (Bayern Munich/Gen), Joachim Björklund (Valencia/Spa), Pontus Kaamark (AIK), Teddy Lucic (Bologna/Ita), Roland Nilsson (Helsingborgs), Gary Sundgren (Zaragoza/Spa).

### Midfielders/Forwards:

Nils Alexandersson (Sheffield Wednesday/Eng), Daniel Andersson (Bari/Ita), Kennet Andersson (Lazio/Ita), Henrik Larsson (Celtic/Sco), Fredrik Ljungberg (Arsenal/Eng), Haakon Mild (IFK Gothenburg), Johan Mjällby (Celtic/Sco), Yksel Osmanovski (Bari/Ita), Jorgen Pettersson (Kaiserslautern/Gen), Stefan Schwarz (Sunderland/Eng), Magnus Svensson (Viking/Nor), Par Zetterberg (Anderlecht/Bell).

## Campbell prepared to wait

LONDON, Aug 25: England defender Sol Campbell said Wednesday that he has decided to put talks on a new contract with English Premiership side Tottenham Hotspur on hold until the end of the season, reports AFP.

The centre-back's decision comes only a week after Manchester United skipper Roy Keane announced he was delaying his decision on his own future until the close season.

"Tottenham have made me an offer which I've been considering. However, I now feel that contract negotiations should be left until the end of the season so that I can concentrate on playing for Tottenham and, hopefully, for England," said Campbell.

## Big job beckons Buchanan



SYDNEY, Aug 25: Queenslander John Buchanan has emerged as the frontrunner for the Australian cricket team coaching position following the surprise resignation of Geoff Marsh.

Marsh will quit at the end of the current Sri Lankan tour on October 4, forcing the Australian Cricket Board to find an interim substitute for the three-week tour of Zimbabwe from October 7.

Australian captain Steve Waugh, who will be consulted about the new coach, is believed to support Buchanan although former Australian wicket-keeper and New Zealand coach Steve Rixon has indicated he is also interested.

Both Buchanan and Rixon were interviewed as potential replacements for Bob Simpson before Marsh was appointed after the 1998 World Cup.

Other names mentioned in the media have included Allan Border, Rod Marsh and Greg

Chappell. Buchanan, who has guided Queensland to two Sheffield Shield and two one-day crowns in his five-year reign, has a clause in his state contract letting him out if the national job is offered.

The Queensland Cricket Association has said it won't stand in his way.

"Certainly if I was asked I would love to consider it," Buchanan said of the 250,000 dollars (162,000 US) a year job.

Buchanan is known as a thorough and player-friendly coach and has gained a reputation for bringing the game into the computer age, plotting each batsman and bowler ball-by-ball to identify strengths and weaknesses.

In the five years Jeff Thomson was Queensland coach before Buchanan the team won

"I thought last time was the right time to be honest," he said. "I need a few weeks to get settled down."

Border, an Australian selector, said he was happy doing occasional coaching stints with Australia A and the under-19 side.

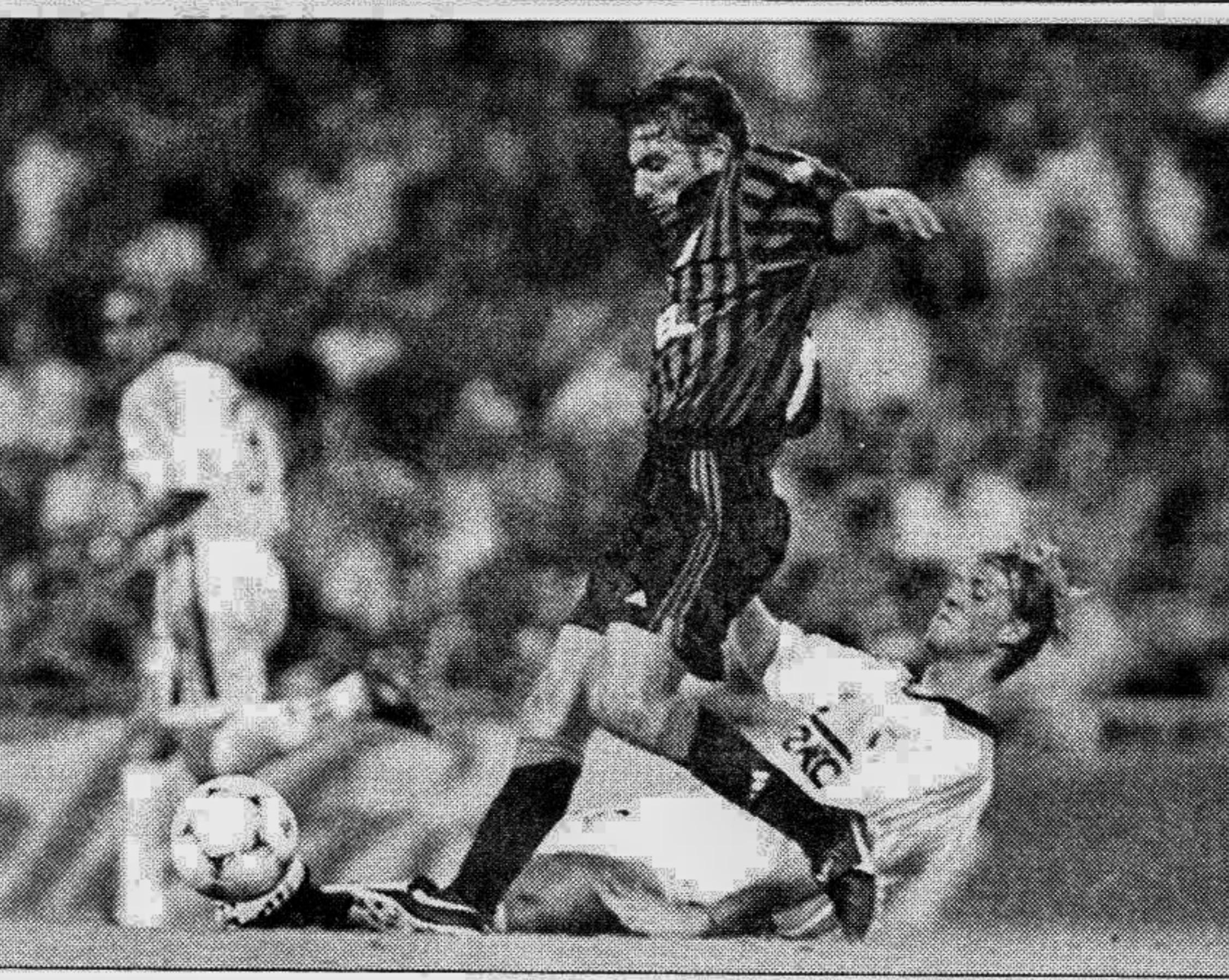
"My initial reaction is not to say no," he said. "A lot of things have to fall into place to put my hat in the ring."

Buchanan resigned to spend more time with his family — wife Michelle and children Shaun, 16, Melissa, 14 and Mitchell, seven — after 14 years with the national team as player and coach.

He said he hoped his successor would come from the ranks of the current State coaches.

"There's a couple of guys out there that I think would do a great job," Marsh said. "You have only got to look at the coaches in the (Sheffield) Shield."

"I think those guys have prepared the players for the Australian team and the three years that I have been coach they have done a magnificent job."



Jose Maria Gutierrez "Guti" (R) of Real Madrid making a sliding tackle on an AC Milan player during a friendly at Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on August 24. Real won 4-2. — AFP photo

## Sport

### Euro 2000 qualifiers Czech squad announced

PRAGUE, Aug 25 (AFP): Czech Republic coach Jozef Kováč on Tuesday announced his squad for the group 9 Euro 2000 qualifiers at Lithuania on September 4 and at home to Bosnia-Herzegovina on September 8.

#### TEAM

**Goalkeepers:** Ladislav Maier (Rapid Vienna/Aut), Pavel Srník (Sheffield Wednesday/Bng)

**Defenders:** Marek Nikl (Nuremberg/Gen), Karel Rada (Slavia Prague), Petr Vlček (Slavia Prague), Tomáš Repka (Fiorentina/Ita), Jan Suchopárek (TB Berlin/Gen)

#### Middlefielders:

Miroslav Baranek (Sparta Prague), Radek Bejbl (Atletico Madrid/Spa), Patrik Berger (Liverpool/Eng), Pavel Nedvěd (Lazio/Rome/Ita), Jiří Nemec (Schalke 04/Gen), Karel Poborský (Benfica/Port), Radomír Sloník (Baník Ostrava)

#### Strikers:

Jaroslav Koller (Anderlecht/Bel), Pavel Kuka (Stuttgart/Gen), Vratislav Lokvenc (Sparta Prague), Václav Smicer (Liverpool/Eng), Pavel Verbir (FK Teplice), René Wagner (Rapid Vienna/Aut)

## Real down AC Milan

MADRID, Aug 25: Clarence Seedorf scored what will almost certainly be his last goal for Real Madrid while Steve McManaman notched his first as the Spanish side eased to a 4-1 win over AC Milan in a friendly yesterday, reports Reuters.

Seedorf, who is on the point of a move away from the Bernabeu after falling out with coach John Toshack, proved a point to the Welshman as he burst through after 28 minutes to force the ball home after a Raul Gonzalez shot was blocked.

His goal came 16 minutes after Ivan Gattuso had scored a brilliant opener for the Italian champions, firing in a volley from the edge of the area after Andriy Schevchenko's shot had been blocked.

Brazilian substitute Savio Bortoloni put Real ahead on 72 minutes, following up a Roberto Carlos free kick that Sebastiano Rossi was unable to hold.

But the best was still to come for Real as McManaman came off the bench to seal a deserved victory.

The former Liverpool winger, who had struggled to impose himself during pre-season games, showed good awareness and a nice finish 10 minutes from time to score from close range after neat work with Fernando Morientes and Míchel Salgado.

McManaman also had a hand in Real's fourth as he did well to recover a deep cross from the left, finding Morientes who in turn squared for Ivan Helguera to sweep in.

The loss of Vieri hurts Lazio, which will miss his goals and leadership. The club did keep the league's best defense (31 goals allowed in 1998-99) intact, but keeper Luca Marchigiani is past his prime.

Coach Sven Goran Eriksson still has to guard against the sort of late-season collapse that thwarted title bids each of the past two years. Last season's disaster — Lazio led the standings for three months but was overtaken by Milan with a week left and lost the title by a single point — still hurts.

With Montella joining Francesco Totti and Marco Delvecchio in a strong attack, and a proven winner finally at the helm in Fabio Capello, who coached Milan to four titles in five years earlier this decade, Roma's future looks bright. But there are holes at midfield, where Luigi Di Biagio is coming off Di Biagio, and it will take time for the revamped defense to settle in and Capello's new system — wholly different from predecessor Zdenek Zeman's — to take hold.

Milan, who surprised everyone by winning last season's title after consecutive middle-of-the-pack finishes, will have a hard time repeating. Captain Paolo Maldini and fellow defender Alessandro Costacurta are both on the decline, and depth is a problem everywhere but at the forward position.

Torino should be the season's pleasant surprise, returning to Serie A after three-year absence. Emilio Mondonico is a solid coach, and the club picked up veterans Fabio Pecchini and Andre Cruz over the summer, adding experience to a lineup that already featured strikers Gianluigi Lentini — in the midst of a career renaissance — and Marco Ferrante, who found the net 27 times last season.

The biggest drop-off might happen at Udinese, who went from third place in 1997-98 to sixth last year, and then lost five starters in the offseason.

Atalanta, 24, ripped ligaments in his left knee during a match in November and missed the rest of the season.

With a surgically repaired knee and a new contract that pays him 10 million lire (5.5 million dollars) annually, he has been impressive in summer exhibitions, showing plenty of the flair that made him one of the world's most feared strikers.

In the annual preseason Berlusconi Trophy match pitting powerhouses Milan and Juventus Tuesday night (Aug 27), Del Juventus led Serie A before he was injured, without the striker, the storied club tumbled to a seventh-place finish.

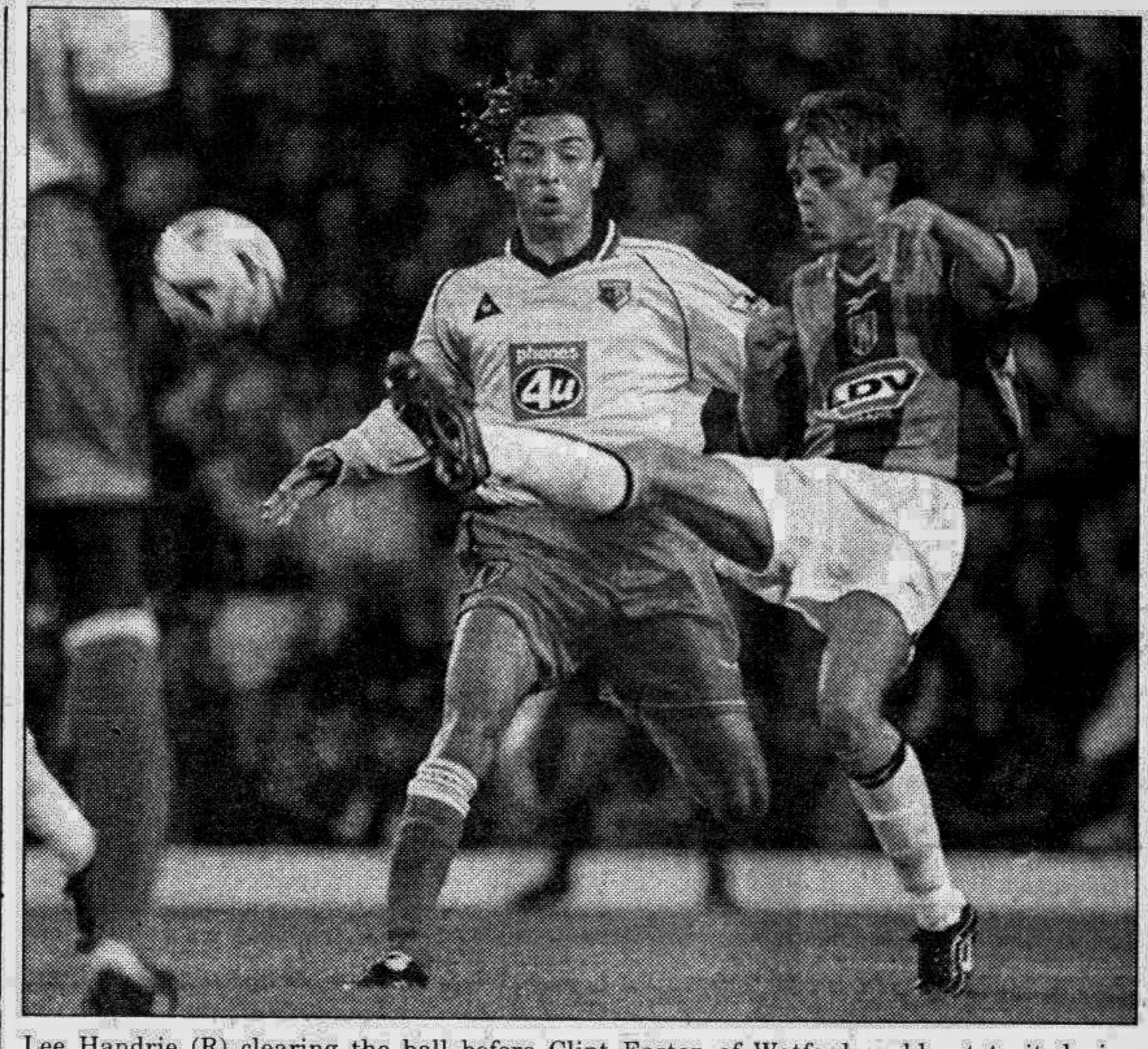
If Del Piero and Golden Ball winner Zinedine Zidane (who had knee surgery in May) can return to form, Juventus — bidding for a fourth crown in six years — is the team to beat.

It is the only top team that will not be playing in a European cup, which means less fatigue and fewer distractions.

Parma inserts four new starters, including volatile Argentine playmaker Ariel Ortega, and must replace two do-

way past Christian Bassila of Rennes during their Intertoto Cup match at Rennes on August 24.

— AFP photo



Lee Handrie (R) clearing the ball before Clint Easton of Watford could get to it during their English Premiership tussle at Vicarage Road, Watford on August 24. — AFP photo

## Leicester blank Boro



LONDON, Aug 25: Leicester stunned high-flying Middlesbrough 3-0 at the Riverside Stadium on Tuesday night, while Aston Villa won 1-0 away to promoted Watford to join Manchester United on top of the English Premiership standings, reports AFP.

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