

Pabna Sports

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Aug 29: The 28th inter-secondary school and madrasah sports competition of Pabna District concluded on August 25 at the Pabna stadium. Deputy Commissioner distributed the prizes among the winners.

District Education Officer and high officials were present in the prize-giving ceremony.

Brief results:

Boys' football: Champions — Pabna Zila School; runners-up — Sujanagar Pilot High School. **Handball (boys):** Champions — Moulana Kasimuddin Memorial High School and runners-up — Bhangaora Union High School.

Handball (girls): Pabna Town Girls' High School won the Championship. **Kabadi (boys):** Champions — Bhangaora Union High School and runners-up — Dogachi High School.

Swimming (open-100 metres): First — Md Ashraf Islam (RM Academy), second — Mokhesur Rahman, Bera BB Pilot High School.

200 metres: First — Md Mahfuzul Islam, Bera BB Pilot High School, second — Md Shamim Hossain of RM Academy.

Backstroke: 100 metres first — Md Shamim Hossain of RM Academy; second — Md Ikramul Hossain of Bera BB Pilot High School.

Swimming (breaststroke: 100 metres): First — Md Ashraf Islam of RM Academy, second — Md Mahfuzul Islam of Bera BB Pilot High School.

Swimming (butterfly: 100 metres): First — Md Ashraf Islam of RM Academy, second — Md Mokhesur Rahman of Bera BB Pilot High School.

4x100 metres medley relay: First — Ashraf Islam, second — Shamim Hossain.

Rusedski, Safin reach final

BROOKLINE, Massachusetts. Aug 29: Top-seeded Briton Greg Rusedski outlasted a surprising challenge by unseeded Arnaud Clement for a 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 victory and advanced to the finals of the US Pro Championships at the Longwood Cricket Club, reports AP.

Rusedski will play Marat Safin of Russia, who defeated Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 in Sunday's championship.

"The match with Marat will be interesting," Rusedski said. "I plan to attack and volley. He'll stand back and hit the ball 90 miles-per-hour."

Rusedski swept the opening three games against Clement and appeared headed for an easy victory. But Clement challenged immediately afterward, breaking Rusedski in the fifth game of the first set to fight his way back into the match.

Clement, who Rusedski easily defeated in a tournament in Toulouse, in 1998, fought off a match point in the 10th game of the second set. He then rallied to win that game and the second set.

In perhaps the decisive game of the match, Rusedski held in a long game to start the third set. He then broke Clement for a 2-0 lead and was never threatened after that.

The unseeded Schalken, who won this event in 1997, broke Safin in the 12th game to take a 1-0 lead.

The match was temporarily delayed while a trainer examined Safin, who was dizzy due to the extreme heat. Safin refused to use the problem as an excuse for this slow start.

In the second set, each player held serve through the opening six games. Then Safin broke Schalken after two unforced errors in the seventh game.

After Safin held in the opening game of the third set, he went up 2-0 when Schalken double-faulted in the second game of the third set. Safin won eight consecutive games before Schalken made it 5-1 in the final set.

Sachin notches

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Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-9, nb-6) 23
Total: (For four wickets in 50 overs) 296

Fall of wickets: 1-75; 2-112; 3-239; 4-279

Did not bat: A Khurasiya, N Chopra, A Kumble, J Srinath, V Prasad

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	7	0	59	0
Zoysa	10	1	40	1
Perera	6	1	41	1
Muralitharan	10	0	42	0
Chandana	10	0	49	1
Jayasuriya	6	0	33	1
Arnold	1	0	14	0

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c David b Singh 71
Atapattu c Ganguly b Kumble 55
Kaluwitharana b Singh 7

Jayawardene c Chopra b Prasad 62
C Silva c Prasad b Chopra 5
Chandana c Chopra b Kumble 0

Arnold c Singh b Prasad 19
Perera run out 4
Vaas run out 0

Muralitharan not out 5
Zoysa not out 0

Extras: (b-1, lb-11, w-5, nb-2) 19
Total: (For nine wickets in 50 overs) 247

Fall of wickets: 1-105; 2-119; 3-193; 4-205; 5-205; 6-238; 7-238; 8-238; 9-243

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Srinath	8	0	40	0
Prasad	9	0	59	2
Chopra	7	0	40	1
Kumble	9	0	57	2
Singh	7	0	27	2
Ganguly	2	0	12	0

Result: India beat Sri Lanka by 23 runs (Sri Lanka winning target revised to 271 off 42 overs according to Duckworth and Lewis rain rule). Sri Lanka however qualify on better net run-rate than India and play Australia in the finals on Tuesday at R Premadasa Stadium at a day-night match.

Man-of-the-match: Robin Singh.

Team	P	W	L	D	Pts
Australia	4	4	0	0	8
Sri Lanka	4	1	3	0	2
India	4	1	3	0	2

Premiership Liverpool stun Gunners

LONDON, Aug 29: Gerard Houllier put one over Arsene Wenger in the battle of the French coaches Saturday as Liverpool defeated Arsenal 2-0 in the English Premiership Saturday with the return of England striker Michael Owen further boosting morale at Anfield, reports AFP.

The big story of the day had come before the kick-off with the announcement that Newcastle United were parting company with their own continental manager Ruud Gullit.

But Houllier, who has had his own critics, proved that he plans a longer stay in England in his first full season in sole control of the fallen giants.

Meanwhile, Aston Villa beat Middlesbrough 1-0 to move level on points at the top of the Premiership with Manchester United and Chelsea needed a late goal to sink Wimbledon.

Leeds revived their campaign with a comeback 2-1 win at Tottenham Hotspur.

Villa made the perfect start through England player Dion Dublin after five minutes.

The move was started by former Middlesbrough man Paul Merson, who left the northern club claiming the atmosphere there was not helping him overcome his gambling and drinking problems.

He fed Alan Wright whose cross fell perfectly to Dublin, who made no mistake.

At Liverpool the opener came after only eight minutes through England striker Robbie Fowler.

Fowler became a father earlier in the week and celebrated by taking a pass from Patrick Berger and finding the net from 30 yards via the underside of Alex Manninger's crossbar.

Berger wrapped up the victory in the second half with Arsenal struggling to make any real inroads.

Liverpool were full value for their win and Owen's appearance from the bench a few minutes from the end provided more grounds for optimism.

Wenger had recalled Tony Adams for Arsenal but the giant defender looked short of fitness.

Croatian Davor Suker had a late penalty saved by Sander Westerveld.

Another continental boss - Chelsea's Gianluigi Viali - was given a boost by Romanian Dan Petrescu, who broke the deadlock after 78 minutes against Wimbledon.

Petrescu almost left the club in the summer but Viali's cosmopolitan side look likely to be there or thereabouts in May.

Tottenham hosted Leeds United with a lot of focus on Spurs boss George Graham, who left Leeds to take the job last season.

Fuel was added to the ill-feeling when he snapped up Dutchman Willem Korsten from under the noses of Leeds boss David O'Leary and the two managers refused to acknowledge each other before kick-off.

Skipper Tim Sherwood volleyed Spurs into a 37th-

minute lead against a young Leeds team.

But the second half was a different story and Alan Smith levelled the match after 53 minutes before Irishman Ian Harte grabbed the winner seven minutes before the whistle.

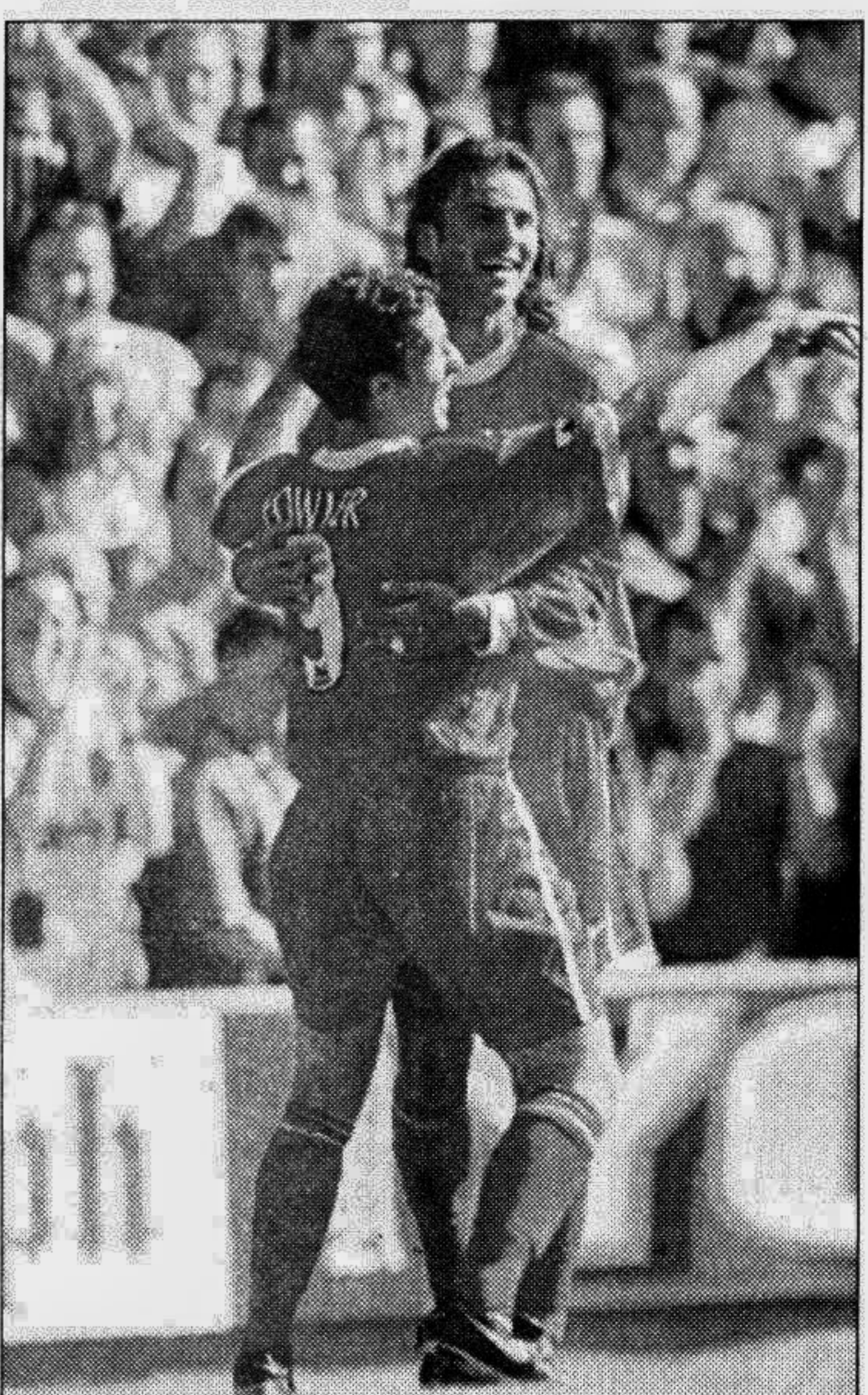
Smith was red-carded at the death for a skirmish with Spurs defender Mauricio Tarico.

West Ham United continued

bottom spot.

In-form Moroccan Hassan Kachoul struck the opener for the Saints after 53 minutes and Matt Oakley's freekick sealed the points after 85.

Sunderland and Coventry meet on Sunday while Monday sees managerless Newcastle visit champions Manchester United and Leicester host Watford.



Liverpool's Robbie Fowler (L) hugs Patrick Berger after Czech international scored the second goal against Arsenal.

their undefeated start to the season with a 3-0 victory over Bradford City.

Italian striker Paolo Di Canio put them in the lead and Trevor Sinclair made it 2-0 before the interval with a marvelous strike.

In-form Di Canio then set up Costa Rican Paulo Wanchope for the third after 49 minutes.

Everton's recent good form came to a halt with the first-half sending off of Richard Dunne curtailing their ambitions at Derby County.

And Derby took full advantage six minutes after the break when their new Argentinian striker Esteban Fuentes scored the only goal.

Sheffield Wednesday's 2-0 defeat by Southampton means they were unable to jump off the

English Premiership table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)

Man Utd	5	4	1	0	13	3
Aston Villa	6	4	1	1	3	3
Chelsea	4	3	1	0	2	10
West Ham	4	3	1	0	2	10
Leeds	6	3	1	2	6	10
Arsenal	6	3	1	2	6	10
Tottenham	5	3	0	2	7	9
Liverpool	5	3	0	2	4	9
Southampton	5	3	0	2	8	9
Middlesbrough	6	3	0	3	7	9
Everton	6	2	1	3	11	7
Leicester	5	2	1	2	6	7
Derby	6	2	1	3	7	7
Sunderland	5	2	1	2	7	7
Watford	5	2	0	3	4	6
Wimbledon	6	1	2	3	14	5
Coventry	5	1	1	3	4	5
Bradford	5	1	1	3	7	4
Newcastle	5	0	1	4	13	1
Sheff Wed	6	0	1	5	13	1

Shearer not the cause

NEWCASTLE, England, Aug 29: Ruud Gullit on Saturday blamed media intrusion and not his star player Alan Shearer for his decision to resign as manager of beleaguered English Premiership side Newcastle, reports AP.

The announcement, made at St James' Park, ended weeks of speculation about the future of the Dutchman after Newcastle's dismal start to the season which has left the Tyneside outfit one from bottom of the Premiership.

Shearer said he was "very surprised" at the decision but denied a feud between manager and player had led to Gullit's resignation.

Castle Cup

Namibia reach final

WINDHOK, Aug 29: Namibia reached the Castle Cup Southern Africa championship final at Independence Stadium this weekend despite failing to win in four matches, reports AP.

The Brave Warriors beat giants Swaziland 4-2 in a penalty shootout following a 1-1 draw at the end of normal time. Namibia converted their four kicks while one Swazi attempt flew over and another was saved.

After falling to Lesotho in the first round, Namibia overcame Malawi in a losers' playoff, title favourites South Africa in the quarter-finals and Swaziland in the semi-finals via shootouts.

Angola, who surprisingly eliminated defending champions Zambia in the other semi-final, host Namibia in the first leg of the final on September 26 with the return match on October 2.

Brilliant goalkeeping by Siphos Dube deprived Namibia of victory during regulation time although he had no chance when substitute Silvester Goraseb struck after 67 minutes.

Goraseb had been in action just three minutes as a replacement for Johannes 'Congo' Hindjoo when he volleyed a flick-on by China-based striker Elphas Shivute past Dube.

Swaziland levelled with two minutes left when teenage striker Dennis Masina forced the ball past goalkeeper Filimon Kanalelo after a frantic goalmouth scramble.

The 36-year-old Gullit's days looked numbered after last Wednesday's disastrous 2-1 home defeat to bitter rivals Sunderland when he controversially left England striker Shearer on the bench.

But Shearer, while admitting his relationship with Gullit had not been good, denied having a hand in the manager's downfall.

Shearer said: "There is no hiding the fact that me and my family has to suffer for my profession. For me my family always comes first and therefore I took this decision to resign."

Gullit, who replaced Kenny Dalglish as Magpies' boss a year ago to the day as the Newcastle board backed him to bring 'sexy' football to Tyneside, accepted full responsibility for the north east side's woeful form.

The fans' expectations have not been fulfilled and therefore I would like to apologise to them. I also would like to thank them for the marvellous support they gave me during this difficult time."

As the outgoing manager left the ground he was applauded by fans.

The chairman of Newcastle United Independent Supporters Association meanwhile has urged the Newcastle board to look for a locally born replacement.

"It's about time we had a Geordie in charge," Frank Gilmour insisted.

"I think a Geordie will be able to take the pressure. That's my personal opinion. Perhaps an older head like Bobby Robson could act in a guiding role for someone like Peter Beardsley."

He added: "For any manager who comes here the pressure is going to be on them to produce the goods with the amount of money spent on players in the last six years and still no silverware."

William bookmakers William Hill had, along with many others, forecast Gullit's exit when they stopped taking bets on him leaving the side before the end of the season after Wednesday's Sunderland defeat.

Philippoussis pulls out

NEW YORK, Aug 29: Fifty weeks after reaching his first Grand Slam final here, Australian serve-smasher Mark Philippoussis withdrew from the 1999 US Open with an injured left knee, reports AP.

Robson shows interest

LONDON, Aug 29: Former England boss Bobby Robson said on Sunday he was eager, willing and ready to resurrect ailing Newcastle United, reports AP.

The 66-year-old Robson, who enjoyed successful stints with Barcelona and PSV Eindhoven, told The Sunday Telegraph: "I have had a little break now and I still feel I have something to give the game."

"Everybody knows of my affection for Newcastle United. After all, I am a Durlham boy."

Newcastle were left reeling after under-fire manager Ruud Gullit's resignation on Saturday following a spate of dreadful results leaving the Tyneside outfit one from bottom in the English Premiership.

Robson was courted for the top job at St James' Park during his time in charge of Spanish giants Barcelona.

But he honoured his contract, as much as it appealed to him to 'come home'.

Robson, who currently works for the English Football Association's technical department in an advisory capacity, said of the Newcastle situation: "I have had no contact with Newcastle since the day I told them I could not break my contract with Barcelona when they tried to persuade me to manage the club after Kevin Keegan had left."

"I was compelled to do that because I had a two-year contract in Spain at the time and was only in the first year. I had to honour that contract."

"They were not too impressed with me for talking to another club. Nobody leaves Barcelona and I had waited 18 years to get there."

"The Newcastle job was the right job for me at the wrong time."

"They had four directors sitting in my house trying to persuade me to go home to Newcastle. It was an unbearable decision to tell them I couldn't go."

And speaking of his life-long love affair with the Magpies, Robson added: "There was never another club for me when I was growing up."

"My father was a Newcastle supporter all his life. I grew up watching him like Jackie Milburn and Len Shackleton. They were my heroes."

Steve Clarke, Gullit's assistant, has been appointed caretaker manager ahead of Newcastle's clash with Manchester United on Monday.

Fiery Carbone's Wednesday future in doubt

SOUTHAMPTON, England, Aug 29: Italian striker Benito Carbone could have played his last game for English Premiership side Sheffield Wednesday after refusing to appear as a substitute in Saturday's match at Southampton, reports AP.

Carbone stormed out of the dressing room after being named as a substitute, and was reported to have taken a taxi to Gatwick Airport.

Carbone's contract is up at the end of the season and he has already been placed on the transfer list after refusing to sign a new contract.

Wednesday manager Danny Wilson, speaking after his side's 2-0 defeat that keeps them rooted at the foot of the Premiership, said: "Substitutes are very important, an integral part of the game these days."

"He was put on the bench, refused to be a substitute, and decided to go home."

"My reaction is that if he's not committed to this club then fine. I don't want anyone at this club who will want to do his best for the club."

"The position is that he walked out, as far as I'm concerned, I'm absolutely disgusted. Will he play again? We wait and see on that."

Corretja faces Norman in Hamlet final

COMMACK, New York, Aug 29: Second-seeded Alex Corretja rebounded from a slow start and beat unseeded Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-1 to advance to the final of the Hamlet Cup, reports AP.

Corretja, a wild-card entry into the tournament, will face Magnus Norman, who beat Jason Stoltenberg 7-6 (7-3), 5-7, 6-3 in the other semifinal, for the title on Sunday.

Vacek took a 2-0 lead in the opening set on Saturday, but Corretja needed just over an hour to recover and win the match. Corretja played nearly 1 1/2 hours in his quarterfinal win over Thomas Enqvist on Friday.

Spain's Carlos Moya won the Hamlet in 1997 and Felix Mantilla lost last year's final to Patrick Rafter.

Vacek beat Corretja in their only other meeting, at Cincinnati in 1996.

Corretja capitalised on Vacek's mistakes and then overpowered him with his own game.

Corretja won five titles last year and finished No 3 in the ATP Tour rankings, a career-best.

Norman's victory over Stoltenberg in the matchup of unseeded players was his first in four meetings between them, although the first three were on clay.

The final is the fourth of the year for the Swede and he has won the other three. His three titles are second on the ATP Tour to Pete Sampras' four. Since losing in the third round at Wimbledon in July, Norman is 21-4 and his ranking has improved from No 60 to 34th.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader handover prizes to one of the winners of Close Up-Kriralok World Cup 1999 quiz contest at the NSC auditorium yesterday.

Bundesliga Bayern back on winning track

COLOGNE, Germany, Aug 29: Bayern Munich finally got full points Saturday with a 1-0 win over neighbours Unterhaching.

The victory was overshadowed by bad blood within the team after French World Cup winner Bixente Lizarazu came to blows with German star Lothar Matthaeus at training the day before, reports AP.

Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld confirmed before Saturday's match that he fined Lizarazu 10,000 Marks (5,300 dollars) for the altercation during which the two players screamed at each other and the French winger's fist connected with Matthaeus' head.

Paraguayan teenager Santa Cruz broke the deadlock after 40 minutes when he accepted a carving Paulo Sergio pass and bamboozled several Unterhaching defenders.

"It was a typical Latin com-

dangerous with their set plays. If they had scored early with one of those the game might have looked very different. Unterhaching coach Gunter Lozenz Kostner said.

"We have to remember we were playing Bayern Munich! We have to allow ourselves a certain amount of learning time. We are steadily growing in confidence but it has to get a lot stronger yet."

The win, Bayern's first, lifts them to ninth.

Things looked bad for Bayer Leverkusen on several occasions Saturday but each time they were rose to the challenge.

VfB Stuttgart went ahead in the 26th minute when Croatian defender Zvonimir Soldo scored with a deflected shot but Brazilian Robson Ponte picked up a delicately back-heeled Bernd Schneider pass and equalised just before half time.

Thirteen minutes after play restarted, Leverkusen, lost keeper Adam Matyssek. He came

at the end of the day though thanks to the skill of German international Stefan Beinlich. He slammed a 77th minute free kick into the corner of Stuttgart's net which lifts Leverkusen to 2nd on the table.

The loss drops Stuttgart to bottom with just one point from three games.

Hertha Berlin's 1-1 draw at home to Werder Bremen cost them the services of winger Sebastian Deisler who tore a thigh muscle before half time.

Nineteen-year-old Deisler has been feted as Germany's newest football star and would have made his international debut next week in Euro qualifiers against Finland and Northern Ireland but now seems certain to be sidelined.

Ilja Aracic initially put Hertha ahead 10 minutes in but Rade Bogdanovic's 75th minute header tied the score at 1-1.

His travels continued Saturday when Freiburg spanked them 3-0. The Lions have lost all nine away games this year and must look back to December 19th 1998 for their last three points on the road - at Freiburg.

On Friday, Hamburg went top after beating Schalke 1-3 and Arminia Bielefeld beat Kaiserslautern 0-2.

Round three will be completed on Sunday with SSV Ulm playing Borussia Dortmund and Eintracht Frankfurt hosting Duisburg.

Bundesliga table on Saturday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)

Bundesliga table on Saturday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):						
Hamburg SV	3	2	1	0	8	37
Bayer Leverkusen	3	2	1	0	4	7
Eintracht Frankfurt	2	2	0	0	6	2
VfL Wolfsburg	3	2	0	1	3	6
Hertha Berlin	3	1	2	0	4	5
Arminia Bielefeld	3	1	2	0	4	5
SC Freiburg	3	1	1	1	4	4
Schalke 04	3	1	1	1	4	4
Bayern Munich	3	1	1	1	4	4
Borussia Dortmund	2	1	0	1	2	3
Munich 1860	3	1	0	2	5	3
Unterhaching	3	1	0	2	4	3
Hansa Rostock	3	1	0	2	6	3
Kaiserslautern	3	1	0	2	6	3
Werder Bremen	3	0	2	1	2	2
MSV Duisburg	2	0	1	1	2	1
SSV Ulm	2	0	1	1	2	1
VfB Stuttgart	3	0	1	2	1	1