NAIROBI, Sept 2: Interna-tional Cricket Council President Jagmohan Dalmiya will recommend that Kenya hosts the ICC knockout tournament

next year, reports Reuters. Dalmiya reached his decision after completing an in-spection of Kenya's facilities ahead of a council decision on who should host the tournament that features the nine Test-playing nations.

The Kenyan capital Nairobi is competing with Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, Disney World in United States and Dhaka in Bangladesh for the second edition of the tourna-ment to be held October 5 to 15,

"After meeting President Daniel Arap Moi and top gov-ernment officials Tuesday, I am convinced there is total government support and I will recommend that Nairobi hosts the second edition of the tournament," Dalmiya told a news conference.

Dalmiya said Sharjah was ahead of Nairobi in terms of internationally-accepted in-frastructure but the ICC would like to bring the tournament to Kenya in line with its policy of globalising the sport.

He flew straight to London Wednesday for the ICC executive meeting to decide the tournament hosts.

"Nairobi is on top of our priority list but things must be put in place to convince us that they deserve the tournament." Dalmiya told reporters.

"Facilities and grounds that can accommodate a minimum seating capacity of 15,000 people must be in place by that time," said Dalmiya, speaking at a news conference.

He said grounds must also have floodlights, a medical centre, a media centre, changing rooms of international standard and three grounds for nets.

Surrey on course

LONDON, Sept 2: English county championship leaders Surrey had a great day in the field on Wednesday to earn maximum bowling points against Nottinghamshire to keep on course for the title, reports AFP.

Surrey's superb spin attack did them proud at The Oval and they need just another four points to clinch top spot for

They bowled Notts out for 115 with Saglain Mushtag's three for 15, the three for 29 of fellow spinner lan Salisbury and three for 25 for Irish seamer Mark Patterson.

Seeking their first championship since 1971, Surrey have turned the 1999 version into a procession.

Only opener Usman Afzaal (47) provided notable resistance with the bat for Notts. But Surrey found batting far from easy too, and their 199 for eight at the close meant they were most unlikely to earn a full complement of bonus points.

Juninho, Ba at Boro

MIDDLESBROUGH, England, Sept 2: English Premiership side Middlesbrough have signed Juninho on a short-term contract Wednesday until the end of the season subject to a successful application for a work permit, reports AFP.

The Brazilian midfielder left the Riverside Stadium two years ago after the club's relegation to the First Division but, after falling out of favour with Spanish top flight outfit Atletico Madrid, he has returned to Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough have also signed French international Ibrahim Ba on a contract until the end of the season from AC Milan.

.Middlesbrough have confirmed that they have already applied for a visa for the Brazil-

Leeds' search for a striker

LEEDS, England, Sept 2: English Premiership side Leeds United's chairman Peter Ridsdale Wednesday pledged to leave no stone unturned in the club's quest to bring in a new striker, reports AFP.

O'Leary are determined to pull out all the stops over the next few weeks to bring in a new striker following their 13.8million-pound (22-million-dollar) windfall from BSkyB Tues-

O'Leary now has 25-30 million pounds to spend in the transfer market after the satellite giants took a 9.08 percent stake in the club, with Leeds' shareholders set to ratify the move shortly.

Late Matsuki

From page 13

Takayashi Amma, the Japanese captain, was declared man-of-the match.

Yellow cards: Hirokazu Iguchi, Takaaki Tokushige (Japan), Hamad al Basr and Fawzi Almass (Kuwait).

Japan FL: Koji Homma, Hirokazu Iguchi (Katsunori Takekawa), Yoshinari Hyakutake, Yoshio Koido, Hiroki Yoda, Yuji Abe (Yoshiyuki Yokose), Takayoshi Amma, Takaaki Tokushige, Shigeru Suzuki, Takashi Takahashi (Hideki Matsuki) and Koji

Kataoka. Kuwait Olympic team: Adel Ahmed, Hussain Sraj, Nader Khalaf, Bader al Rashidi (Hamad al Harbi), Yousef Dabis, Abdullah, Hamad al Basr, Nasser Darwes, Khale al Shammar, Jamal al Bokait and Fawzi Almass (Walied Jumah). Referee: Tajul Islam (Bangladesh).

Dalmiya to back Nairobi's case Watch out for tweakers

COLOMBO, Sept 2 (Internet report): Sri Lankan cricket coach Day

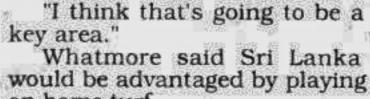
Whatmore believes spin bowl ing will determine the outcome of the upcoming three-Test series against Australia. Whatmore, a former Victorian opener who played Test cricket for Australia, expected

the Test series starting in

Kandy next Thursday to be fought on spin-friendly pitches.

"At any ground in this country it's fair to assume it's going to turn whether it's day one, two, three or five," Whatmore

"I think the team that's going to handle the spinners better is the more likely to make sufficient runs to defend.

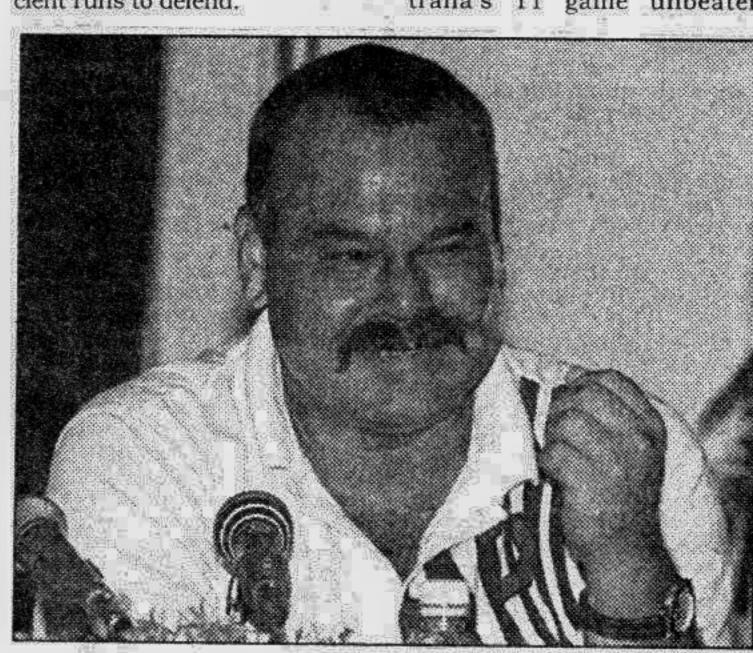


on home turf. "When you play away from home the opposition has an advantage," he said.

"It happens that we are play-ing in Sri Lanka so it should be an advantage for us." The Sri Lankan coach said his charges were buoyed by victory against Australia in the final of the tri-series tournament

that also involved India. Australia defeated the host nation comfortably in two preliminary matches before Sri Lanka trounced the World Cupchampions by eight wickets in

last Tuesday's day-night final.
The victory snapped Australia's 11 game unbeaten



Sri Lankan cricket coach Dav Whatmore addressing a press conference in Colombo on September 1. - AFP photo

streak in one-day internation-

"To win pretty convincingly ... gives you the confidence to go on, that the opposition is certainly beatable," Whatmore

"And they (Australia) have given the impression that they were unbeatable, they way they have been playing the last 11 games or so." Whatmore expected Aus-

tralia to come out hard in the first Test after the disappointing end to the tri-series. "They have had a setback in

the final so they will come out punching," he said.

3 Lankan quicks to join MRF Academy

COLOMBO, Sept 2: Sri Lanka will send three young fast bowlers for coaching at a cricket academy in India, a cricket board official said Thursday, reports AP.

Ishara Amarasinghe, Sujeewa de Silva and Nuwan Fernando will be trained by former Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillie and Indian coach TA Sekar at the MRF Cricket Pace Foundation in Madras, the capital of southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The coaching begins September 8.

"We feel it will immensely help our fast bowlers and in turn our cricket," said Chandrishan Perera, the Sri Lankan Cricket Board spokesman.

The foundation already has trained several overseas players, including Sri Lanka's Chaminda Vaas and Ruwan

Warne back in Test fold COLOMBO, Sept 2 ner's spot for the first Test was

(Internet report): Shane Warne will be back in the Australian Test ahead of fellow leg-spinner Stuart MacGill.

Warne was nominated by Australian coach Geoff Marsh here today for a berth in the first Test against Sri Lanka starting in Kandy on September

side placed the squeeze on MacGill, who was favoured ahead of his more illustrious predecessor for Australia's last Test match against the West Indies in April.

nundrum went deeper than the fact MacGill was the Test incumbent for the leg-spinning

The biggest thing that will come into it (selection discussions) is Shane Warne," Marsh said on the eve of a four-day tour match against a Sri

he's got a magnificent record. match in the West Indies for that Test match - this is a different series in a different coun-

"At this level you have got to perform in every game and hopefully Shane can put in a big one for us in the first Test match.'

tralia's vice-captain and Test cricket's most successful spinner with 317 victims, deserved to win back his Test position from MacGill.

that Shane is probably the best Test series against Sri Lanka.

Shane had the operation on his Warne's return to the Test

Despite MacGill's stunning feats that have reaped 59 wickets in 12 Tests, Marsh said Warne would get the nod for the opening of the three Test series against Sri Lanka.

Marsh said the selection co-

Lankan President's XI.

"He's a big match player and "He was left out of the Test

Marsh said Warne, Aus-

Former England

coach Bobby Rob-

son is poised to

take over as man

"You have got to remember

leg-spinner in the world," said Marsh, who steps down as Australian coach at the end of the "At the end of the day, since



SHANE WARNE

shoulder he hasn't had a lot of first class cricket ... but towards the end of that long run in the World Cup he was bowling well

"His performances in those two World Cup games, the final and the semifinal, you would have to rate them pretty high; they were huge efforts."

Warne spun Australia to victories in the World Cup finals with man of the match perfor-

Marsh said the other spin-

likely to go to journeyman Colin Miller, who provided the option of bowling medium pace before reverting to off-spin delivered with a grip used by baseball pitchers.

"In the last Test match (in the West Indies) Colin Miller bowled very well and he has bowled very well every time he has played for us," Marsh said. "I think he'll probably get the nod because of his medium

"If we go in with two (pacemen) and two (spinners) then he also gives us that third seamer option.

"His performances warrant a selection in the Test match." The outgoing coach said Australia would pick its Test side for the tour mater starting tomorrow through necessity, as it was the only fixture before the Test series starts. "There's little preparation

for the game but obviously we are going to have to pick our Test side to give everybody a run before the Test match," Marsh

We have got to bite the bullet and pick our best side and get some practice in before the Test match so we might have to make the tough decision today. "When we sit down tonight. we'll pick the best 11 players we

think will win this Test match. Marsh was confident struggling paceman Glenn McGrath and stylish batsman Mark Waugh would prove their fitness for the tour match at a training session later today. McGrath has been troubled

by a thigh strain while Waugh complained of tightness in a hamstring yesterday.

Keane, Irwin out of action

DUBLIN, Sept 2: Republic of Ireland captain Roy Keane and defender Denis Irwin have been ruled out of the next two Euro 2000 qualifying matches after picking up injuries in Wednesday's 2-1 win over Yugoslavia, reports AFP.

The Manchester United pair will miss the Group Eight games against Croatia in Zagreb on Saturday and Malta in Valleta on Wednesday.

Keane could also miss Manchester United's opening Champions League game

against Croatia Zagreb. Ireland team doctor Martin Walsh said: "Roy's problem is a hamstring. It's not torn but some fibres are damaged and I think he's looking at two or three weeks on the sidelines.

Seaman pulls out

LONDON, Sept 2: Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman has Wednesday become the fourth England player to pull out of the England squad ahead of their European Championship quali-fiers against Luxembourg and Poland, reports AFP.

Seaman had been doubtful to play against Luxembourg on Saturday but England coach Kevin Keegan was still hoping he would recover from the call injury which has kept him out since the start of the season in time to face Poland next Wednesday.

The injury has not responded to treatment quickly enough, though, and Seaman has now followed Sol Campbell, Rio Ferdinand and Darren Anderton out of the squad - leaving Nigel Martyn as his likely replacement in goal.

Cheering makes no difference!

LONDON, Sept 2: Shouting and screaming may make sports fans feel better, but researchers say it has no impact on the outcome of a complex sport, reports Reuters.

It may make spectators feel more in control, but the positive and negative effects of crowd support - like cheering your home team or placing players under pressure at key moments - cancel each other out, according to New Scientist magazine.

Bernd Strauss and his colleagues at the University of Muenster in Germany analysed the behaviour of spectators at four home games of a local team that plays American football.

The scientists recorded 631 downs - attempts to move the ball down the field - on one tape and the reactions of 300 loyal fans on another. One group of judges decided the success of failure of each down and a second group of judges decided. if the fans had been supportive. "Strauss found that crowd

support had absolutely no impact on the outcome of an individual down. He says cheers are probably ineffective in other complex team sports as well, such as soccer and ice hockey," the magazine said.

Windies cruise From page 13

A Flower b Dillon Blingaut c Jacobs b King Carlisle c Jacobs b Bryan Evans b Bryan P Strang b Walsh A Whittall not out Olonga not out Extras: (b-2, lb-5, w-10, nb-8) Total: (For nine wickets in 50 oversl

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-31; 3 38; 4-152; 5-159; 6-230; 7-230 8-240; 9-240. Bowler M \mathbf{R}

Walsh 31 Dillon 34 Bryan 36 Perry 53 Adams 46 WEST INDIES Campbell b G. Flower Jacobs run out Adams b G Flower Lara c Campbell b Strang Chanderpaul not out Powell not out Extras: (nb-1, w-7)

Total: (For four wickets in 43.4 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-114; 2-115; 3-120; 4-176 Did not bat: R King, H'Bryan, N Perry, C Walsh, M Dillon.

M R 29 0 34 42 49 28 39 26

Man-of-the-match: Ridley

Impressive Irish win another tough two games. We won't get carried away now that we've won it. "We've still got to go and get

> games. A first half full of Irish industry and technical excellence had the Yugoslavs, who had arrived unbeaten in four previous matches in the group, reeling in alarm and surprise as they were

points from the next two

Ireland's Robbie Keane (R) puts Yugoslavia's Miroslav Dukic under pressure in their Euro

simply outplayed. The visitors were lucky to go in at the break with their goal intact and the only doubt about McCarthy's team was whether they could produce the finishing touches to their stylish build-ups. Keane, the six-million-

pound (nine-million-dollar) Coventry signing who has scored three goals in as many matches for his new Premiership club, answered that within nine minutes of the interval with a glorious, sweeping rightfooter to despatch Denis Irwin's cross decisively beyond goalkeeper Aleksandar Kocic, who had clearly expected the giant and the manager said: "We have Niall Quinn to get his head to it

Yugoslavia equalized withhalf an hour to go as Dejan Stankovic slipped in behind Steve Staunton to glide a header beyond goalkeeper Alan Kelly. Two near misses by the Yu-

goslavs in the next five minutes

had the Irish fans holding their However in the 70th minute. left-footed right-winger Kennedy hit a superb shot from out of the blue from 25 metres

for the winner off the under side of the bar. Almost lost in all the drama was 37-year-old birthday boy Tony Cascarino's appearance as a substitute 11 minutes from the end for his Irish record-

breaking 84th cap. Group Eight table after Euro 2000 qualifying match Wednesday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Republic of Ireland 540110 212 Croatia 632110 711 Yugoslavia 53119 310 Macedonia 52129 67 70074 24 0

Shevchenko feeling fine



week after scoring on his debut for Italian champions AC Milan, Shevch-Andriv

enko is looking to hit a few more headlines this weekend by helping Ukraine to topple world champions France, reports Shevchenko made a bitter-

2000 qualifier on Sept 1.

Republic of Ire-land's Robbie

2000 Keane and Mark Kennedy both sco-

ry over Yugoslavia at Lans-

downe Road here on Wednesday

to leave the Irish on course to

qualify for Euro 2000, reports

old winger Kennedy fired spec-

tacular goals for the group 8

leaders who have now won four

out of five matches with 10

Irish manager Mick Mc-

Carthy said afterwards: "It was

a great performance - two

stunning goals. It was a perfor-

mance of skill and ability and

The Republic, now on 12

points, have a game in hand on

Croatia, who are one point

adrift. The Irish are two points

clear of Yugoslavia, who also

Croatia on Saturday before

heading to Malta on Wednesday

McCarthy's side play in

have only played five matches.

passion. It was fabulous."

goals scored and two conceded.

Teenager Keane and 23-year-

DUBLIN, Sept 2:

red in a 2-1 victo-

sweet debut for his new club on Sunday, scoring to give them a 2-1 lead against newly-promoted Lecce, only to see the hosts equalise at the end and deny Milan two points. "A draw isn't that bad, given that we weren't able to play any

better and Lecce caused us a lot

of trouble," said the 22-yearold, who is already making progress at speaking Italian. He agreed that scoring is good for morale, but added: What interests me is that the team win. And if they don't win, what does my goal count for?"

It was nevertheless a promising start for a man who cost 22 million dollars from Dynamo Kiev and is the latest striker to be saddled with the burden of trying to imitate Marco Van Basten.

"It's a great honour to be compared to him, and I hope it's something that continues for years to come," Shevchenko said. "But he was the greatest. I'm going to have to work very hard to reach that level." Shevchenko may take time

to adjust, but he is already be-I ginning to fit in at AC Milan.

And his credentials are second to none.

Top scorer in the Champions League last season with 11 goals, he came up through the ranks of Dynamo Kiev as a teenage protege of coach Valery Lobanovski, finishing with 60 goals in 117 senior matches. "Sheva", as he is nicknamed

back home, also won five league titles and three Ukrainian Cups. And this after having to re-take the entrance exam for the local sports faculty, after failing the football skills test.

The meeting in Kiev with France gives Shevchenko the chance to redeem a rare failure. When the teams met in Paris earlier in the year Ukraine were far the better team in a 0-0 draw. It was only uncharacteristically bad finishing by Shevchenko and superb goalkeeping by France's Fabien Barthez that kept the score

goalless. His arrival at Milan has been far more promising. In pre-season matches, he converted a penalty against Bayern Munich in Paris and then scored two and made the other as they beat Bayer Leverkusen

He also has the backing of club president Silvio Berlusconi, who said: "I think he'll be a revelation. A lot of people are expecting a great deal from him. And he's got the talent to meet those expectations.

Shevchenko has already shown his willingness by accepting a slightly different

playing position from coach Alberto Zaccheroni, on the flank, leaving room in the middle for Germany's Oliver Bier-

But he said: "Zaccheroni isn't Lobanovski and Milan aren't Dynamo Kiev. If I've come to Italy and AC Milan it's because I want to measure myself in a new situation. So I do what I'm told to. I'm a professional, I'm used to it.

wing... my position on the pitch isn't important. What counts is that we make things work as a Helping to make things work off the pitch is Rezo Choconelidze, his helper and

on the wing, I'll play on the

"If the team needs me to play

interpreter, when Sheva's fledgling Italian lets him down. However, an important sign of his acceptance by the team's old guard came the night after the draw at Lecce, when he had dinner with the team's stand-in captain Alessandro Costacurta.

doesn't happen to every new signing at the club. Shevchenko has already realised the dream of many by moving to AC Milan, but he is neither arrogant nor falsely

Hardly extraordinary, but it

modest. "AC Milan is one of the most famous clubs in the world, so it's a point of arrival for anyone who plays football," he said.

"But the great thing about this club is that it is always striving to do better. So it's ac-tually a point of departure."

"My work is finished. Cer-

WORLD FOOTBALL BRIEF

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 2(AFP): Brazilian international forward Rivaldo insists he will stay at Barcelona rather than try his luck in the English Premiership with Manchester

Rivaldo has still to work out a new deal with the Catalan club - his current one extends to 2003 - and said Thursday: "We had a verbal agreement that my contract would be extended by two years but for the moment nothing has been done about it.' However, he said ideally he

United.

had not been in touch with Manchester United over a possible move. "My buy-out clause is 96 million dollars and in any case

wanted to stay put, adding he

I want to stay in Barcelona," he

MATURANA LEAVES

SAN JOSE: Colombian Francisco "Pacho" Maturana quite late Wednesday as coach of Costa Rica, saying his position had become untenable.

tain people in this country have attempted to drag my name through the mud. ." blasted Maturana. Maturana, who only took over late last year, was at one

stage in the running to take

over as coach of Paraguay, which finally went to Uruguayan Sergio Markarian. CAF BOSS' CONCERN ACCRA: With barely four months to go to the 2000 African Cup of Nations being

co-hosted by Ghana and Nigeria, African Football Confederation president Issa Hayatou expressed dissatisfaction Thursday with the state of pitches in Ghana for the event. He called on organisers to

ensure that quality pitches be made available by the time the tournament opens. Alhaji M.N.D. Jawula,

chairman of the Ghana Football Association, pledged to bring the pitches up to international standards in time.

Newcastle set to welcome Robson NEWCASTLE. league at 66, said there were a England, Sept 2: handful of small centractual

details that needed to be nego-

hope to be travelling up to New-

castle sometime today for some

more slight further discussions

with Newcastle United Football

Club and I would expect Newcas-

tle United Football Club to be

making a statement about that

situation sometime this

delight Newcastle's huge follow-

ing who gave him their over-

whelming support in an opin-

ion poll published on Wednes-

Robson received 87 percent

of the votes in a poll conducted

by the Newcastle Evening

Chronicle. Terry Venables, an-

other former England coach,

Robson has always coveted. He was offered it when Kevin Kee-

gan two and a half years ago re-

signed but he was in charge at

The Newcastle job is one that

polled just six per cent.

Robson's appointment will

evening."

He said: "All I want to say is I

tiated before he would sign.



ager of struggling English Premier League club Newcastle United, reports AFP. Robson, who was born and brought up in the Newcastle Ridsdale and manager David area, was due to arrive in the city later on Thursday to complete the deal.

The club, who parted company with Ruud Gullit last Saturday after a woeful start to the new season, confirmed that they are in the final stages of talks with Robson and that a press conference will be held on

Friday morning. A spokesman for the club said: "Newcastle United Football Club confirm that they held discussions with Bobby Robson in London yesterday

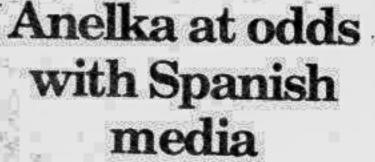
with a view to him taking over



BOBBY ROBSON the job of manager at St James's

"We plan to have a further meeting with Bobby Robson later today and a press conference will be held at 10am tomorrow in the Magpie Room at St James' Park." Robson, who will become the

oldest manager in the premier



PARIS, Sept 2: French international Nicolas Anelka, who claimed the British media hounded him out of Arsenal, has run foul of the Spanish press, only a month after his arrival at Real Madrid, reports AFP. "I don't like seeing my pic-

to the press" complained the 20-year-old as he prepared for France's crucial Euro qualifier against the Ukraine on Satur-"I don't like all the hoopla that surrounds Spanish foot-

ball," he added.

ture in the paper every day. If it

doesn't stop I will stop talking

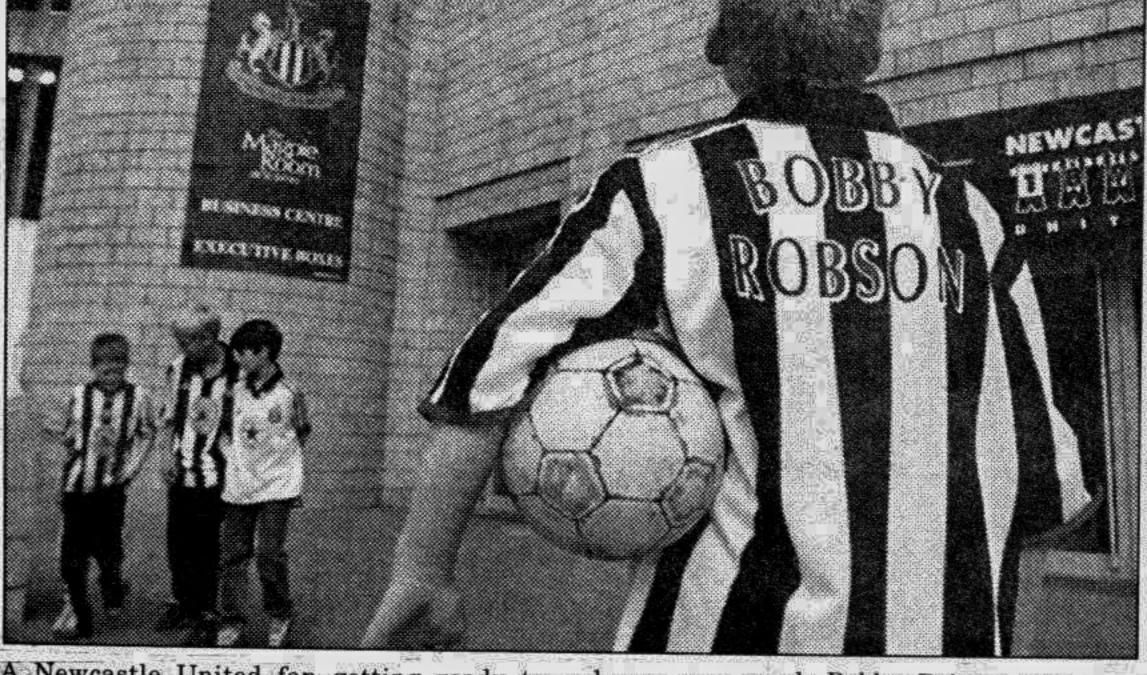
Barcelona. Robson managed England for eight years, taking them to the World Cup semi-finals in Italia 90.

aged Ispwich, PSV Eindhoven (twice), Porto and Sporting Lisbon, inherits a Newcastle side that have lost five out of their six Premiership games this sea-

the team were thrashed 5-1 at

was in charge on Monday when

Robson, who has also man-Bowler Johnson A Whittall Strang Olonga Caretaker boss Steve Clarke Evans G Flower Manchester United. Result: West Indies won by Robson's first task will be to six wickets. prepare the side for the tough trip to Chelsea on September 1 and then the UEFA Cup trip to Jacobs CSKA Sofia in Bulgaria five TOMORROW'S MATCH days later. India vs Zimbabwe



A Newcastle United fan getting ready to welcome new coach Bobby Robson who was expected to sign for the club yesterday. - AFP photo