#### Wallwork's ban suspended

BRUSSELS, Sept 4: A Brussels judge on Friday temporar-ily suspended the life ban on Manchester United's Ronnie Wallwork pending a final rul-ing by the Belgian Football Union's appeals body, Belgian

media reported, says Reuters. Wallwork, an outstanding 21-year-old prospect, was banned for attacking referee Amand Ancion while on loan to Belgian Second Division Club

The incident came after preseason favourites Antwerp lost a play-off on May 23, ending their hopes of promotion to the First Division.

Antwerp.

The interim judgement will allow Wallwork to resume playing at least until a decision from the appeals body, which is

due on September 17. The ban, condemned by United manager Alex Ferguson as draconian, would apply in all countries affiliated to FIFA. United teammate Danny Higginbotham received a oneseason ban for insulting Ancion in the same match.

United and Antwerp, one of Belgium's oldest and most successful clubs, signed a cooperation deal last November to swap loan players on a regular basis.

#### Everton get Xavier

LONDON, Sept 4: Portuguese international Abel Xavier joined English Premiership side Everton from PSV Eindhoven Wednesday on a threeyear contract, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old was snapped up bu Everton manager Walter Smith for 1.5 million pounds (2.4m dollars).

Xavier, who was born in Mozambique and speaks English, has won 10 caps and is a defensive midfielder.

He said: "It has always been in my mind to play in England. I think the crowds and the atmosphere when you're playing at the top level is a situation you want to be in.

"I know Everton is a big, traditional club and I promise the supporters I'm going to do my best.

Smith added: "He was a player who came highly recommended and I think he'll settle into English football without any problems. He's an aggressive type of player who likes to go and win the ball."

Everton have won two of their six games this season to put them just below the halfway point in the table.

#### Juninho's Boro plan

MIDDELSBOROUGH, England, Sept 4: Brazilian star Juninho is looking for a long term future at Middlesbrough when his loan spell finishes in May. reports AFP.

Juninho aims to shoot Middlesbrough up the Premiership table when he joins from Atletico Madrid on Tuesday.

Boro have paid 1.4 million pounds to secure the Brazilian's services until the end of the season when they will have an option to make the move permanent for an additional 6.5 million.

Speaking to Spanish sports newspaper Marca, Juninho said: "I am going with the intention of signing permanently for Middlesbrough.

"I am leaving many friends here but this group of players is going to win something because of the great dressing room atmosphere. I am leaving to be a success

at Middlesbrough. I will be confident there and that is of great importance to me. I was told it would be diffi-

cult to play over here (for Atletico) and I need to play when I am not injured. I have had problems in the past and this year I needed confidence to play which is why I am moving. The Rio de Janeiro player concluded: "But I cannot remain a player who just makes up numbers in training."

If, as expected, his work permit is granted, Juninho should make his second Boro debut at home to Southampton on September 11 or in the televised game at Leeds on September 19.

#### Help Anamika

From page 13 When contacted, a senior Bangladesh Olympic Association official said that their hands were tied because it was the BJKF who has the full au-thority to select their team. He also suggested to this correspondent that Anamika should meet the BJKF president Maj Gen Anwar Hossain, BP. who is now posted in Bogra, with her plea because he was the only | Deluca says the issue of 2002 man who can help her. Can Anamika reach the

BJKF president? Don't we have a body who can check the irregularities of

#### different federations? Team doctors to blame?

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 4: The Rio de Janeiro Regional Medicine Council (CRM) on Thursday absolved the two Brazil team doctors who allowed the national team's star striker Ronaldo to play in the 1998 World Cup Final, reports

The Inter Milan striker collapsed with a fit on the day final and was omitted from the original team sheet handed in by then coach Mario Zagallo only to be reinstated to the starting line-up after he arrived at the stadium alone. Brazil were humbled 3-0 by France with Ronaldo clearly below his

The team doctors Lidio Toledo and Joaquim da Matta were accused of negligence in allowing the player to be reinstated in the starting line-up.

## PCB prefers to wait

KARACHI, Sept 4 (Internet report): The controversyridden Pakistan cricket took a new twist on Friday as Ataur Rehman refined his somersault skills with yet another retraction.

The discarded fast bowler backed out of his earlier affidavit and claimed he had no knowledge of matches being 'fixed' or any cricketer being involved in betting.

Earlier, he had accused skipper Wasim Akram of paying him Rs 100,000 for playing badly in a one-day International in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Ataur informed the investigating one-man judicial commission that he had been asked by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials to put his signature on a plain piece of paper.

"Ata did own the signature, but not the contents of the earlier affidavit," disclosed Abdus Salam Khawar, the registrar of the Lahore High Court (LHC), to The News daily. According to him, the pacer had then told the Commission that he knew nothing about matches being fixed and that the second affidavit he had submitted with the Commission last year, in which he disowned his earlier affidavit, was correct

"The Commission has

LONDON, Sept 4:

Outgoing English

county champi-

ons Leicestershire

lost their first

home match

the competition for four years

on Friday after a 10-wicket

haul by Derbyshire's uncapped

fast-medium bowler Trevor

The 22-year-old Derby-born

Smith finished with the excel-

lent figures of 10 for 150 as his

side won by four wickets with

one day of the four-day game to

Leicestershire were bowled out

for 197 in their second innings.

leaving Derbyshire to score 233

Derbyshire towards their target

with 113 of 181 balls, including

Leicestershire's champi-

onship crown was captured by

Surrey on Thursday when they

beat Nottinghamshire by 10

wickets at The Oval to win the

title for the first time in 28

cashire's innings and 14 run

win over Durham should guar-

antee them First Division sta-

tus next season when the 18

countries are split into two

from the front with a season's

best 158 off 322 balls, including

leg-spinner Chris Schofield,

Durham had no answer to

one six and 20 fours.

Captain John Crawley led

At Old Trafford, Lan-

Opener Adrian Rollins led

Smith captured five for 63 as

Smith, reports Reuters.

for victory.

13 fours.

years.

passed orders to issue a showcause notice to him and he has been restrained from leaving

the country," Khawar informed. Ataur's withdrawal as one of the key accusers might prove to be the turning point in the inquiry, since it was on the basis of his affidavit that the government decided to constitute the Commission.

The registrar made it clear that the Commission wanted to wrap up the inquiry on Friday, but for the sake of justice it had asked the counsel for Wasim, Khawaja Tariq Rahim, if he wanted to cross examine anyone else in the stands.

"Tariq submitted a list of six persons whom he wanted to cross examine, but the Commission allowed him to question only four," he added.

The four who have been asked to appear for questioning at the next hearing on Septem-ber 8 are former chief executive of the PCB, Majid Khan, ex-Test fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz, discarded batsman Basit Ali and Rashid Latif, who is currently in the Pakistan camp being held in Lahore. The Commission did not feel it necessary for Tariq to cross examine Javed Miandad or journalist Fareshteh Gati-Aslam.

Khawar further confirmed that the September 8 hearing would be the final sitting by the

their captain and former Aus-

tralia Test batsman David Boon

for 13, and experienced seamer

Peter Martin, who also had

in their second innings against

Northamptonshire, having at

one stage been 95 without loss

Left-arm spinner Michael

Davies strengthened his claim

for an England A place with six

for 49. Off-spinner Graeme

Swann, in England's Test squad

for the forthcoming tour to

South Africa, proved Hamp-

shire batsmen have all sorts of

problems against the turning

blistering 167 helped Somer-

set's second innings to 280 all

out against Glamorgan at

Taunton, leaving the Weslsh

Andy Caddick strengthened

Somerset's position by taking

three early wickets, leaving

Glamorgan deep in trouble at 98

Chris Silverwood, not content

with having already claimed

five for 67 against Kent, fin-

ished on 53 not out off 63 balls

including seven fours at Scar-

50 in 11 overs with new England

call-up Michael Vaughan as

Yorkshire posted 389 to lead on

took two more wickets as Kent

first innings by 87.

Silverwood shared a stand of

Paceman Silverwood then

Yorkshire's England discard

England Test pace bowler

Opener Marcus Trescothick's

ball by taking four for 46.

three wickets.

at Northampton.

team 371 to win.

for four.

borough.

Commission, after which it would immediately submit its findings to the chief patron of the PCB, President Rafig Tarar.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the PCB ad hoc committee on Friday did not rule out the possibility of Wasim being reinstated as captain for the Toronto series. But at the same time he made it clear the Board did not want to take hasty deci-

"The judicial commission today has given us the leverage to remove the suspension on Wasim and the two others (Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed), but I think we can wait up to September 8 before taking a final decision on lifting the suspension orders," said the outspoken Mujeebur Rehman from

Islamabad. "Even after September 8 we have time to announce the team and captain. Let us see what happens in next few days."

The Pakistan team is due to leave for Toronto on September 12. Indications are clear that the ad hoc committee is keen on reinstating Wasim as captain as soon as possible.

Even if Wasim does not go to Toronto, it is not going to make much of a difference to the fortunes of the Pakistan team and Moin Khan can easily enough be named captain for this one

#### Smith runs thru' Leics whose three wickets included slumped to 148 for six at the

BRIEFSCORES At Old Trafford: Lancashire (20 pts) beat Durham (4 pts) by Hampshire collapsed to 167 an innings and 14 runs.

Durham 226 (J Daley 66, J Lewis 61, C Schofield 5-66) 197 (N Speak 66) v Lancashire 437 (J Crawley 158, G Lloyd 86, N Phillips 4-171).

At Leicester: Derbyshire (19 pts) beat Leicestershire (7 pts) by

Leicestershire 343 (P Nixon 72, V Wells 68, T Smith 5-87) 197 (D Stevens 60, P Nixon 51, 7 Smith 5-63) v Derbyshire 308 (P DeFreitas 105, K Krikken 60, M Kasprowicz 4-70) 235-6 (A Rollins 113).

At Taunton: Somerset 203 (G Rose 50, S Thomas 4-40, O Parkin 4-38) 280 (M Trescothick 167) v Glamorgan 113 (G Rose 4-14) 98-4. At Edgbaston: Gloucester-

shire 132 (J Snape 57, A Richardson 8-51) 206 v Warwickshire 167 (A Smith 5-41) At Northampton: Hamp-

shire 357 (W Kendall 98, R Smith 94, G White 55) 167 (D Kenway 52, M Davies 6-49, G Swann 4-46) v Northamptonshire 342 (R Warren 110, R Bailey 92, D Ripley 67, P Hartley 4 59) 79-2.

At Scarborough: Kent 302 (M Ealham 59, M McCague 53, C Silverwood 5-67) 148-6 (E Smith 55) v Yorkshire 389 (M Vaughan 153, R Harden 64, C Silverwood 53 n.o. D Headley 4-



Scene from the African Club Cup encounter between Egypt's Al-Aly and Morocco's Al-Raja in Cairo on September 3. -AFP photo

### CONMEBOL confused!

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 4: South American confederation general secretary Eduardo World Cup berths has been decided, seemingly quashing a proposal that would have the continent play Europe instead of Oceania for a place in the fi-

"The issue of the distribution of berths is over. The subject has been fully discussed," Deluca insisted.

As it stands now, the schedule calls for the fifth-place South American team to go up against a team from Oceania for one of the last berths on the 32team World Cup, which is to be co-hosted by South Korea and Japan.

Under FIFA's original allocations, Europe received 15 berths, including an automatic place for defending champions France. Africa received five berths, Asia four, CONCACAF three, while South America received four berths and a playoff with Oceania for the last.

Asia balked at the allocations, and has threatened to boycott if it not given a fifth guaranteed place. Europe tried to appease the Asian Football Confederation, offering to have its 14th-place qualifier play its fifth-place counterpart in Asia for a berth. The AFC said that was insufficient, and specifically

challenged CONMEBOL to give up its half berth to Asia. The AFC felt that because

FIFA WORLD CUP

two of its places were reserved

for the co-hosts - and unprece-

dented occurrence - that two

places for its remaining 43

posal has been discussed in-

In the past few weeks, a pro-

members was insufficient.

the Oceanians. But Deluca told The Associated Press that the "4 1-2 berths" already granted to South America were already a done deal - ratified by FIFA's executive Committee during its last meeting in Los Angeles. As such, he insisted the issue could not be appealed, nor changed.

> lies wherever they can in an attempt to change the qualifying programme," Deluca said. But he insisted answers for Asia's protest should be found elsewhere: "That is a problem for the Asians ... not for South America.

"The Asians are still protest-

ing, and they are looking for al-

formally among FIFA members

that would have the fifth-placed

South American team play the 14th place from Europe, and

Asia's fifth place would take on

As for the threat of an Asian boycott, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said last week that he would meet "within two weeks" with Asian Football Confederatton president Sultan Ahmad Shah of Malaysia.

"There will be no Asian boycott," Blatter said. He has said he would "clarify" the situation before the FIFA Executive Committee meets again in Las Vegas on October 1.

#### East Bengal retain league title

CALCUTTA, Sept 4: Formidable East Bengal retained the Calcutta Super Division football league title defeating Mohammedan Sporting Club 1-0 in their concluding outing here today, reports PTI.

Ghanaian right wing back Suley Musah converted a penalty in the 42nd minute of the opening half of the one-sided "super five" exchange fashioning his team's 26th title triumph in the prestigious league.

Referee Ydayan Haldar pointed to the dreaded spot after an onrushing Raman Vijayan was obstructed inside the sporting box by their skipper Aslam Parvez and Insan Ali. The heavily-built Ghanaian kept his cool to score from the setpiece. thereby guiding his side out of the reach of closest rivals Mohun Bagan.

Playing true to form at the Salt Lake Stadium, East Bengal maintained constant pressure on their opponents with Musah and his compatriot Jackson overlapping regularly to feed their forwards.

The first half itself saw the winners create a number of goal-bound moves, with Carlton Chapman playing the midfield general's role to perfection and striking up a fine rhythm with Musah.

East Bengal accelerated the tempo in the initial stages of the second half, but looked complacent later on, even as the inexperienced sporting squad looked disjointed and rudder-

#### Bookies give thumb down to Magpies

LONDON, Sept 4: British bookmakers remain convinced Newcastle are heading down to the First Division despite the appoinment of Bobby Robson, reports AFP.

William Hill rate the club as 100-30 shots for relegation. Newcastle are also hotly tipped to lose their next match at Chelsea, the bookies offering odds of 6-1 against Robson coming away with all three points

against Gianluca Vialli's side. Newcastle remain long shots at 10-1 to reach the Premiership top six at the end of the campaign and the odds on Robson leaving St James' Park by the season's close are currently

But Hills are backing underpressure Magpies striker Alan Shearer to net for England against Luxembourg on Satur-

The England captain is rated at 6-4 to net one goal at Wembley, 3-1 to score a double and 8-1 to grab a hat-trick or more. England are offered at 1-33

to beat Luxembourg and 11-10 to win both on Saturday and away in Poland next Wednes-But the bookies doubt whether England will actually

make it to the Belgium/Holland-hosted finals, offering 1-2 on Kevin Keegan's men missing out and only 6-4 that they qualify. Hosts Holland are rated as 4-I favourites for the trophy with

Italy at 5-1, world champions France at 13-2 and out-of-sorts holders Germany rated as 8-1

#### Taelman Burkina Faso's new coach

OUAGADOUGOU, Sept 4: Ex-perienced Belgian coach Rene Taelman was handed the task on Friday of guiding Burkina Faso through the 2000 African Nations Cup Finals, reports

The 53-year-old, who has 27 years experience in coaching clubs in South America, Africa and Asia but has never coached a national outfit, signed a one year contract.

Taelman, who took the post following the resignation of Frenchman Didier Notheaux, will be aiming to improve on Burkina Faso's 1998 performance when as hosts they reached the semifinals.

The 2000 renewal which is being co-hosted by Ghana and Nigeria runs from January 22 to February 13.

#### Christie will know next week

LONDON, Sept 4: Former Olympic 100m champion Linford Christie is likely to learn his fate next week, after attending a hearing into his positive drugs test on Friday, reports. Xinhua.

Christie is hoping to clear his name in the investigation into whether or not he took the banned substance nandrolone. Though retired and only running for fun while he coaches other sprinters, the 39-

year-old was suspended after failing a drugs test after an indoor meet at Dortmund, Germany in February. Christie faced the same three-man panel that heard the case of Scottish athlete Dougie Walker, who was eventually

cleared of any wrongdoing. Jayne Pearce, spokeswoman "Up the ante!" blared Clarin for UK Athletics, said: "The hearing has concluded and we will make a further announcement as soon as the outcome is known.

Christie, who has protested his innocence, said after his suspension: "I'm virtually re-"For me to take drugs at the end of my career or when my meetings. Brazil have won 30 in

ridiculous. "When I first heard the news it was a shock. I'm innocent and I keep telling everybody I'm innocent. It sounds like the same old record but I did no wrong, so that's it."

career is finished is stupid and

If Christie is found guilty, he faces a two-year ban.



Denmark's Wilson Kipketer poses after winning the men's 800-metre title at the Golden League meeting in Brussels.

### -AFP photo Kipketer, Szabo in sight of jackpot



4: Wilson Kipketer and Gabriela Szabo moved tantalisingly close to a

one-million-dollar jackpot by winning their penultimate races in the Golden League series in style on Friday, reports Reuters.

World champion Kipketer of Denmark overcame another challenge from South African Hezekiel Sepeng to win in a 'year's best time of one minute 42.27 seconds. Romania's Szabo, the 5,000

metres world champion, was in a class of her own in the 3,000 metres, winning from her Moroccan friend Zahra Ouaziz in 8:25.82. The two now need one more victory in Berlin on Tuesday to

claim a part of the prize to be shared by those to have won at all seven Golden League meet-Moroccan Hicham El Guerrouj provided the other high-

light of the first major meeting

since the Seville World Cham-

pionships by flirting with

Kenyan Daniel Komen's 3,000

metres world record. El Guerrouj, world champion

over 1,500 metres, looked for much of the race if he could add the 3,000 mark to his collection of world records featuring the 1,500 and the mile.

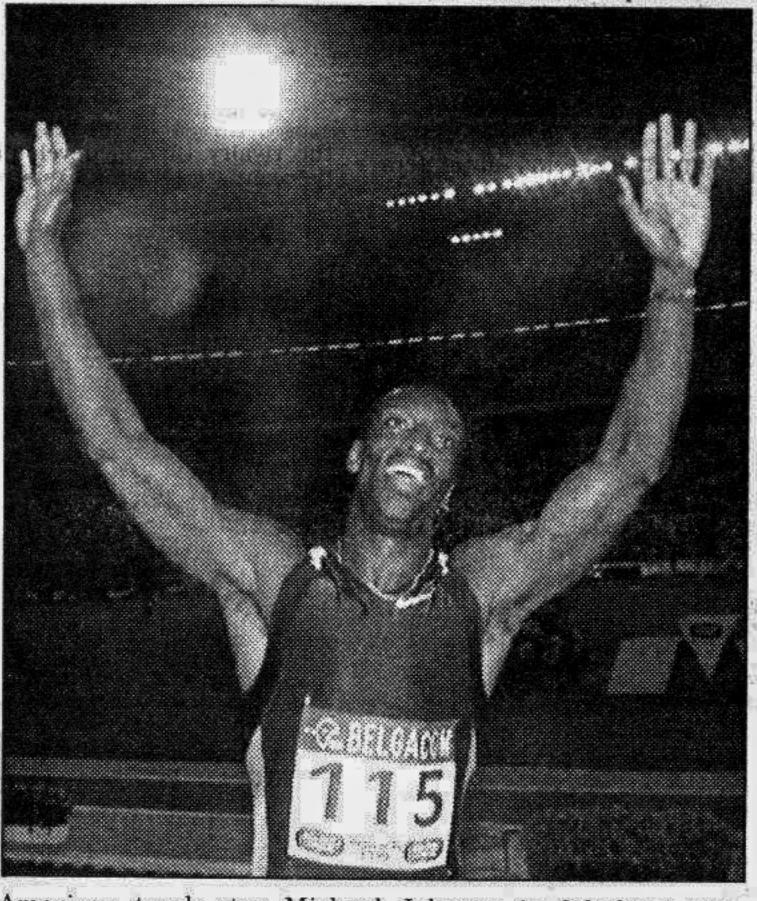
But in the end he had to be content with 7:23.09, becoming the second best performer over the distance. Komen's world record stands at 7:20.67.

"It was my first 3,000 metres this year so I didn't know what to expect," said El Guerrouj. "Now I know I can beat that record.

The 50,000 fans packing the King Baudouin stadium on a warm, still night had something special to celebrate with Belgian Mohammed Mourhit setting a European 10,000 metres record of 26:52.30.

Kenyan Charles Kamathi won the race in a year's best 26:51.49 but Mourhit, the world 5.000 metres bronze medalist. was delighted with second place. He best the previous best European mark of 27:12.47 set earlier this year by Portugal's Antonio Pinto.

As in Seville, Kipketer was



American track star Michael Johnson is delighted after recording victory in the 200m final in Brussels.-AFP photo

"It's a bit of a lottery." Kipketer said of his chances of being considerably richer in a few days. "You win some, you lose

given a hard time by Sepeng

who pushed him all the way be-

fore settling for second place in

1:42.69.

200 metres.

some. We will see." Szabo, who used her trade-

mark kick to outsprint Ouaziz and beat her into second place as she did in the 5,000 metres final in Spain, shared Kipketer's view of the jackpot. "It's very tough," she said.

"You lose one competition and you lose everything. Michael Johnson, making his first appearance since breaking the 400 metres record

at the World Championship,

was a comfortable winner over

Johnson won in 19.93 seconds, resisting a strong finish from world 200 metres silver medalist Claudinei Da Silva. "It's hard getting motivated

after the world Championships and the world record," he said. "The sooner I finish the season. the better I'll be next season." Being out of the jackpot chase did not stop Kenyan

Bernard Barmasai from recording another easy win on the fast Brussels track. The 3,000 metres steeplechase world record holder, who was disqualified

from the jackpot for saying he had asked another Kenyan let him win a race, outclassed the opposition to win in 8:03.08. Barmasai was still on course for the jackpot when he was disqualified by the IAAF, the sport's ruling body, after admitting he had required help

from compatriot Christopher Koskei to win in Zurich last month. The IAAF allowed Barmasai to enter the last two Golden League meetings but told him he could forget all about the prize. Barmasai said he was considering whether to take action

against the IAAF ruling. "Once

I've run in Berlin, then I'll do

#### something," he said. BAF basketball

Annual inter-base basketball championship of the Bangladesh Air Force began at the BAF Base Bashar at Kurmitola yesterday. reports BSS.

A total of five teams drawn from the Bangladesh Air Force are taking part in the competi-

In the opening match Base

Bashar defeated Base Zahurul

Haque 48-47.

# Clash of Latin titans



only a friendly. but that's a bit of a contradiction when Argentina and Brazil clash. And this time, neither will be able to claim it didn't have its full-strength side. With the European leagues suspended for a week due to European 2000

BUENOS AIRES.

Sept 4 (AP): This

time, there will be

no excuses. It's

match at River Plate's Estadio Monumental. It's the first of two friendlies in four days, with a rematch on Tuesday in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Brazil won their last meeting at the Copa America, but the Brazilians know it didn't really

qualifiers, both South Ameri-

can powers have their full

complement for Saturday's

count. Argentina were missing much of its "foreign legion" in July, while Brazil were at maximum force. Even so, Argentina gave Brazil their toughest fight of the tournament, and the Brazilians escaped with a 2-1 victory only because goalkeeper Dida stopped a penalty kick.

in reference to the arrival of their stars from Europe. Argentina's biggest newspaper declared Friday: Argentina's "selection is ready for more ambitious soccer than it showed Brazil in the Copa America." The rivalry is so close that Argentina have won 34 of the 85

the series that dates back to

1914. But Argentina haven't

beaten Brazil at home since a 1-0 victory in the first round of the 1983 Copa America. Still smarting from this year's Copa America, Argentina are eager to avenge the July de-

On Friday, Argentine televi-

sion endlessly replayed key segments of the Copa America match. In the backdrop, commentators speculated tirelessly on whether Argentina's fab five - Juan Sebastian Veron, Hernan Crespo, Claudio Lopez and Ariel "Burrito" Ortega and Fernando Redondo - would have

day's rematch. "The Argentine strategy must be to go on the offensive," one commentator said. "Argentina cannot neglect to

the firepower going into Satur-

stop the two Roanldos and Rivaldo," another added. But Argentine coach Marcelo Bielsa gave little hint of his strategy, saying he would wait

until the last minutes to disclose his starting lineup. Whatever Bielsa does, the Argentine squad will have to have already done its homework in confronting Brazi's 'Rs" — Ronaldo, Ronaldinho

and Rivaldo. The elder Ronaldo, all of 22, will be at near-full fitness after a year-long bout with knee in-

He's playing again for Inter of Milan, although not starting yet. His namesake Ronaldinho, 19, is the darling of Brazilian fans after his rocket ride to fame in the Copa America.

Rounding out the three 'Rs' is FC Barcelona's Rivaldo, arguably a candidate for world's best player. If the Brazilians were wor-

ried, they didn't show it. Two of those 'Rs' looked more the picture of rest and relaxation this week: Ronaldo and Rivaldo were all smiles for the photographers as they dipped into their hotel swimming pool between training sessions.

But Brazil doesn't appear totally at ease. Despite the intensity of the rivalry, Brazilian

coach Wanderley Luxemburgo experiment with new formations in training.

And reports suggested he is not entirely satisfied, leaving until kickoff for prognostica-tors to speculate whether Brazil will abandon its traditional 4-4-2 alignment for a 3-5-2 for-

mation. If implemented, Roma fullback Antonio Carlos would have greater freedom, with duties similar to a European-style sweeper, alongside fullbacks Joao Carlos and Scheidt. Defenders Cafu and Roberto Carlos, holdovers from the 1998 World Cup team, were moved up to "wings" - assuming both of-

fensive and defensive duties. The object apparently is to contain an Argentine side enhance with its European stars who sat out the Copa America to rest from a grueling season of play abroad.

This time, Ortega is expected to be joined by Crespo and Lopez, a trio that inspires the respect of opponents.

Crespo, 24, also has been sharpened by play for Parma in the Italian league where his coach, Alberto Malessani, has unabashedly called him "the best forward in the world."

praise, but admits it feels more confident and a better player than he did even a year ago. Meanwhile, Lopez is coming off a phenomenal season at Valencia as one of the Spanish

league's leading scorers. One sports columnist, Jose Luis Barrio of Argentina's El Grafico, said Saturday's friendly play had all the ingredients of a showdown: pride and passion of two South American powerhouses, not to mention a

well-matched rivalry. "It's time to confront reality," he wrote.

Crespo shrugs off such