

## Primera Liga Real owe Anelka one

MADRID, Sept 12: Out of sorts French international striker Nicolas Anelka started on the bench but came on and created Real Madrid's second goal as they scraped a 2-2 draw with Athletic Bilbao on Sunday, reports AFP.

The draw meant Real dropped two points behind arch rivals Barcelona, who beat Espanyol 3-0 on Saturday, and unheralded Madrid neighbours Rayo Vallecano rivals, who beat Real Sociedad 2-1 on Sunday with a superb last minute volley by Miguel Sanchez.

The 20-year-old Anelka, who had even suggested he might quit the sport last week after being dropped by France and not having scored in Real's first two matches since his 23 million pound transfer from Arsenal, came on in the 59th minute and 16 minutes later had given himself some respite from his critics.

## French Div 1 PSG move atop

PARIS, Sept 13: Paris St Germain soared to the top of the French First Division table here on Sunday with a 2-1 win over defending champions Bordeaux while Monaco, who had started the weekend in pole position, lost by the same score-line at Rennes thanks to two monumental defensive bungles, reports AFP.

PSG, whose goal heroes were Mickael Madar and Nigerian Jay Jay Okocha, lead Lyon and Auxerre, who had been first and second overnight after their goalless draw on Saturday.

After only two minutes PSG had the ball in the net but Brazilian striker Christian was clearly offside as he rounded Ulrich Rame before netting.

It was an exciting start for both teams and then Madar narrowly missed the target after turning his marker.

But after 21 minutes former Everton striker Madar made the score 1-0 and it was no more than PSG deserved.

## Bundesliga Kaiserslautern mauled

BERLIN, Sept 13: Under pressure Kaiserslautern looked very shaky on Sunday as they were humiliated 5-0 by previously winless German Cup holders Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga, reports AFP.

The 51-year-old, who had received the full support of the board earlier in the week over his row with Swiss international midfielder Ciriaco Sforza, was unable to lift his demoralised team, who he coached to the 1998 title as they succumbed meekly to their third defeat in four championship matches.

Kaiserslautern, for whom both Sforza and French international Yuri Djorkaeff were dropped, fell apart in a seven minute period either side of half-time as already 1-0 down they collapsed to 4-0.

German international striker Marco Bode made it 2-0 in the 42nd minute. Yugoslav Rado Bogdanovic gave them a three goal lead a minute after the break and in the 49th minute strike partner Torsten Fringe had ended the contest with the fourth.

The day's other match saw 1860 Munich end Eintracht Frankfurt's unbeaten start to the season with a 2-0 win at home.

## Windies back

From Page 6

Joshi c Powell b Adams	25			
Prasad c Walsh b Gayle	18			
Mohanty not out	0			
Extras: (lb-5, w-19, nb-2)	26			
Total: (Allout in 41.5 overs)	120			
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-2; 3-12; 4-26; 5-27; 6-42; 7-43; 8-100; 9-115; 10-120.				
<b>Batter</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Walsh	7	2	13	0
King	10	2	33	2
Collimore	10	0	27	1
Dillon	8	2	8	2
Gayle	4.5	0	18	2
Adams	2	0	16	1

**Result:** West Indies won by 70 runs  
**Man-of-the-match:** S Campbell

## Lightning strikes

From Page 6

They set the base for Dimitri Mascarenhas, whose sparkling 79 changed the course of the match before he was bowled by David Leatherdale.

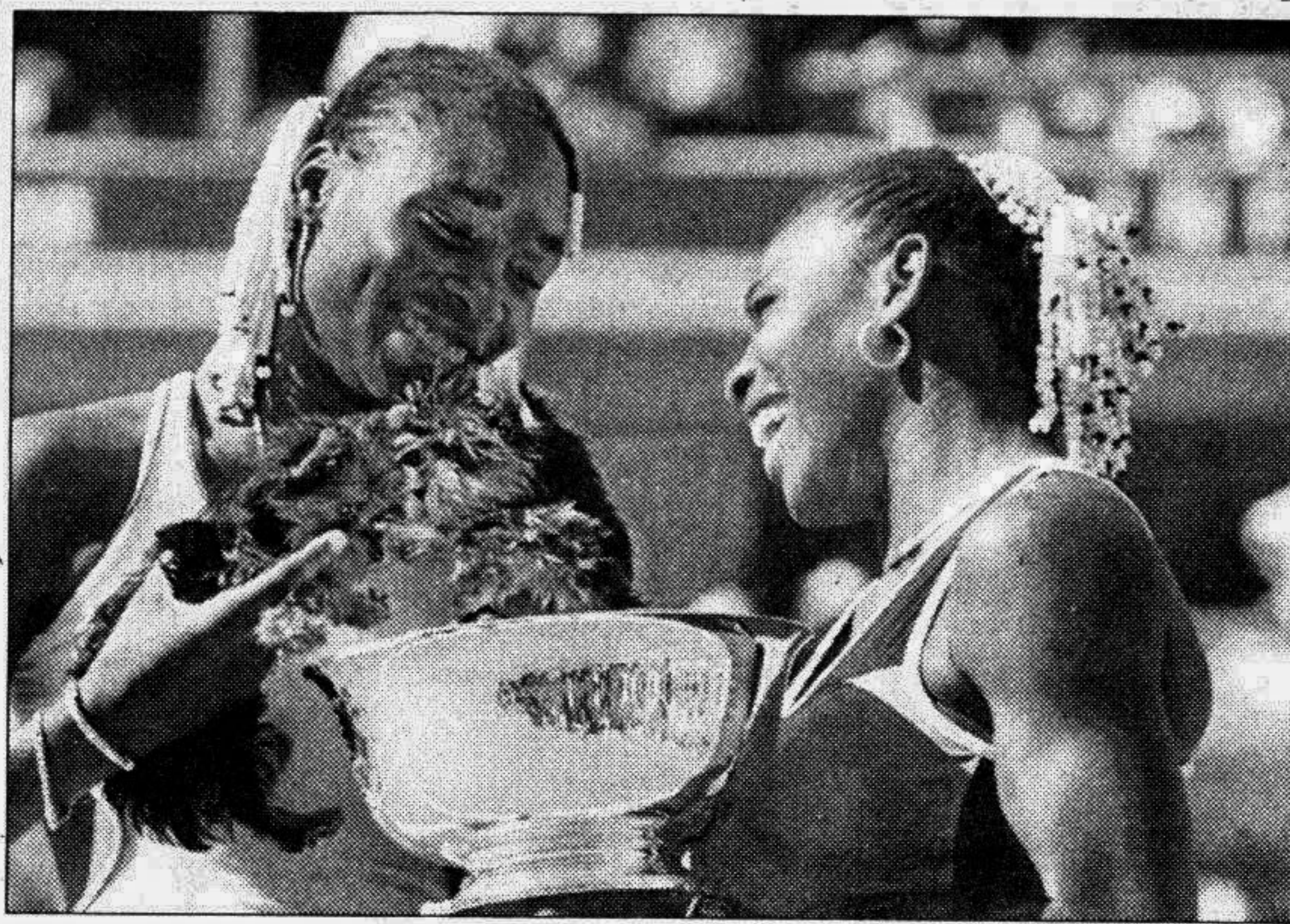
Will Kendall was unbeaten on 24 when Hampshire reached their target for the loss of six wickets, with nine balls to spare.

"I'm very proud of the way everybody has performed and conducted themselves throughout the season," claimed Crawley. "Every player has worked hard and senior players like Neil Fairbrother, Peter Martin and Michael Atherton have also contributed to the success as well as Warren Hegg as the vice-captain."

"All the players have worked hard and the ups and downs have really pulled us together because we knew it would be difficult for the rest of this season - everybody has been doing two jobs in their own little way."

"To win a title and put ourselves in a position to finish second in the championship is a very satisfying performance in my first season as captain, particularly after not have a great start."

"Everyone was going on that we would be a rudderless ship, but you only have to look at the players in that dressing room to know they would do a good job."



SISTER ACT: Williams sisters Serena (R) and Venus enjoy a funny moment with their pet during the presentation ceremony after the women's doubles final. —AFP photo

## Ups and downs of the Las Vegas showman



NEW YORK, Sept 13 (AFP): Andre Agassi has scaled the mountain time and again and says the view from the top is only sweetened by the time spent wandering in the valley.

Agassi, who won his second US Open title with a five-set victory over Todd Martin on Sunday, said his periods in the tennis wilderness not only enhanced his success, they made it possible.

"Part of me is convinced that if it wasn't for those valleys, these peaks wouldn't be this high," Agassi said. "It's how my spirit has always worked. And secondly, I think there has been a lot of gain I've received through those valleys. I've always found a way to get the most out of my life."

The 29-year-old American, languishing at 141 in the world rankings in November of 1997, capped an astonishing resurgence with a five-set victory over Andre Medvedev at the French Open final in June.

That victory made him just the fifth man to win all four Grand Slams at least once. Since then he has gone from strength to strength: finishing runner-up to Pete Sampras at Wimbledon and, now, capturing another US Open title in front of fans who have watched the twists and turns of his career and hairstyles for more than a decade.

"They've watched me grow up," was Agassi's simple explanation for the affection shown him by the US Open fans.

"It's hard not to care, on some level, when you watch somebody develop from a teenager who says and does a lot of the wrong things to a person who gets out there and appreciates the opportunities."

Appreciating the opportunities is the mantra of the older,

wiser Agassi.

"What I missed out on for a few years in my career I can never get back," said Agassi, whose first US Open win in 1994 came when he was an unseeded player working his way back to the top after falling out of the top 20 in late 1993.

"I don't know if you ever make up for missed opportunities. The best you can do is not live in regret from here on out. That has been my commitment, that if I do lose, or if I do miss out on certain opportunities, that I don't regret not at least being prepared and taking my fair shot at it."

Agassi started his rebuilding at ground level, returning to the Challenger circuit in 1997 in a bid to gain some match confidence.

In 1998 he made the biggest one-year jump into the top 10 in the history of the rankings, from 122 to a year-end ranking of number six.

But it wasn't until the midpoint of the French Open this year, Agassi said, that he knew he still had what it took to compete at the highest level.

From Paris to New York, Agassi has sizzled this summer with 35 victories in 39 matches. "I don't think until the middle of Paris that I let my shots fly in big situations," Agassi said. "It wasn't until after Paris that I developed that sense of focus and confidence."

Three of his losses came against Sampras, who had been seeded No. 1, but pulled out of the Open with a back injury the day before he was to play in the first round.

With Sampras gone, and two-time defending champion Patrick Rafter soon to follow with a shoulder injury, the top half of the draw was open for everyone. Martin seized the opportunity and survived his close matches to reach a Grand Slam final for the second time

in his career. He had gone to the 1994 Australian Open final, where he lost to Sampras, and now he can say he lost to the other dominant player of the decade.

Agassi had hoped to play Sampras again to get a measure of revenge for his Wimbledon beating. Against Martin, he faced a player who was almost but not quite, as tough.

But even winning two out of three Grand Slam finals and regaining the world number one ranking doesn't make the current, reflective version of Agassi feel able to tout himself as the best player of 1999.

"To be quite honest, you have to always prove that you're the best player of the year every time you step on the court," Agassi said. "To accomplish two Slams, something nobody else did this year, I certainly have accomplished the most."

But that's less important to me than getting on that court and getting after it every time. The philosophy is a far cry from the "Image is Everything" persona projected by Agassi in his brash youth.

"Somebody showed me a picture recently of when I was, like, 16 years old," he said. "I was asked 'Who is this person?'"

"I looked at it, I said, 'Wow, She's cute. She has a nice figure, very narrow hips, nice legs, long, good hair."

All of a sudden I went, 'Wow, that was me!'"

"I've changed a lot — I don't quite have the hair anymore," Agassi joked, but it's clear the changes are more profound.

"Dignity? I believe there's a lot of dignity in any professional that goes out there in that kind of intense arena, maintains a standard of professionalism and work ethic."

"I've been on the other side, so I can say now, looking back, that I do walk off the court mighty proud."

## Williams land doubles title

NEW YORK, Sept 13: One day after 17-year-old Serena Williams captured her first singles Grand Slam trophy, she teamed with sister Venus to win the doubles title with a 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory yesterday over American Chanda Rubin and Sandrine Testud of France, reports Reuters.

Serena is quickly taking stock of her new-found celebrity status.

"I had 21 messages on my cell phone and that's an all-time high," she said. "I'm very popular now."

The 1999 US Open was truly a Williams family affair as sisters Serena and Venus took home the women's singles and doubles trophy and a whopping 1,290,000 dollars.

Serena's monumental efforts added up to 750,000 dollars for the singles win and half of the doubles prize money of 330,000 dollars. Venus won 210,000 dollars for reaching the semifinals.

"I'm not really celebrating person," Serena said. "I'll celebrate with my credit card."

Between the two sisters, there are seven Grand Slam winners' trophy at their home in Palm Beach, Florida.

In 1998, Venus paired with fellow American Justin Gimelstob to win the Australian and French Open mixed doubles title. To complete the family Grand Slam that year, Serena teamed with Belarusian Max Mirnyi to take the mixed honours at Wimbledon and the US Open.

At this year's French Open, Williams sisters won the women's doubles title over the team of Hingis and Russian Anna Kournikova.

At 17, Serena finds herself in some fairly elite company, joining Margaret Court, Billie Jean King, and Martina Navratilova as the only women who have won the singles, doubles and mixed championships of the US Open in their career.

Both Court (1970) and Navratilova (1987) won all three championships in the same year at the US Open.

The Williams sisters said the latest issue of their monthly tennis newsletter should be out within a couple of weeks.

"I think I might make the cover," said Serena, smiling.

## OPEN NOTEBOOK

NEW YORK, Sept 13 (AP): Jarkko Nieminen upset top-seeded Kristian Pless of Denmark 6-7 (1-7), 6-4, 6-4 to win the US Open Boys' singles title and become the first player from Finland to win a junior Grand Slam title since Birgitte Lindstrom captured the girls' crown at Wimbledon in 1966.

Sunday's was the best career performance by the left-handed Nieminen, a native of Maska, Finland. He reached the round of 16 at both the Australian and French Opens before losing in the first round at Wimbledon.

Nieminen is the 1998 Finnish men's doubles indoor champion and was runner-up in the singles.

## OLD FOES

Lina Krasnoroutskia won the US Open Girls' singles crown Sunday by defeating fellow Russian Nadejda Petrova 6-3, 6-2.

It was the second straight Grand Slam tournament final for Krasnoroutskia, who lost to Iroda Tulyaganova in the Wimbledon title match.

Petrova, who won the French Open junior title last year, was playing in her first year tournament since the Australian Open in January, where she lost in the semifinals.

Krasnoroutskia, who was seeded sixth, is from Obninsk, Russia, while the second-seeded Petrova, who was born in Moscow, now lives in Krakow, Poland.

Martin also had a five-set match in the opening round, but only after squandering four third-set match points to let France's Stephane Huet force him to the distance and leave him unhappy.

"If you would have asked me 12 days ago after I beat Stephane how I felt about being here, I wasn't too pleased," Martin said. "I said a few things about having to change my attitude. Six matches later I feel very good about being at the US Open."

**ACE ATTACK**  
Champion Serena Williams finished the US open with 62 aces, nearly triple the number the next highest player served in the tournament, Lindsay Davenport with 22.

The 62 aces is the most by a single player since complete tournament statistics have been kept on all 127 women's singles matches, beginning in 1995.

Chase Manhattan Bank, sponsor of the US Open women's singles, donates 50 dollars for every ace served in singles play to fund inner city tennis camps for girls. Williams was responsible for a record 3,100 dollars of the final total of 25,750 dollars.

Irina Spiriea, who was the Chase Ace champion in each of the last two years, finished third this year with 19.

## Press blames Ronaldo

MILAN, Sept 13: Inter Milan leapt to Ronaldo's defence after a woeful performance against AS Roma at the weekend - but the Italian press still ripped their former hero to pieces on Monday, reports AFP.

Ronaldo, who is returning after a year of torment with tendon trouble, and has recently been on international duty, was a shadow of his former self in Sunday night's 0-0 draw at the Olympic stadium.

The Brazilian failed to dribble, shoot or do anything useful and was eventually substituted by coach Marcello Lippi for Christian Vieri, who was being rested after straining a muscle last week with Italy.

The Italian press, who had hero-worshipped Ronaldo two seasons ago and christened him "The Phenomenon", showed no mercy.

"Ronaldo - where are you?" screamed a taunting headline in the Corriere dello Sport, while the Gazzetta dello Sport and Tuttosport both rated the Brazilian's performance a desecration four out of 10.

## All set for champions' fiesta



PARIS, Sept 13: Heavily depleted defending champions Manchester United begin the defence of the European Cup by facing the Italian champions Lazio on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Arsenal are travelling by land, air and sea to Florence for their Champions League opener with Fiorentina. Boavista make Portuguese football history when they welcome Norwegian Rosenborg to Porto and France's Marseille know a poor performance at home to Austria's Sturm Graz could cost coach Roland Courbis his job.

In the new expanded all-singing, all-dancing Champions League there are eight groups with matches split over two days to avoid congestion.

With Groups E-H not playing until Wednesday it is Groups A-D that take centre stage Tuesday and United launch their defence in a more down-to-earth fashion than their tortuous but undefeated path to eventual glory last season.

Last year the English Treble winners were in a veritable Group of Death alongside Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Brondby before tough assignments in the quarter- and semifinals respectively against Italian giants Inter Milan and Juventus.

Final triumph was assured in that victory from the jaws of defeat against Bayern Munich with two injury-time goals from Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Soderstrom.

United's already been brought to the pitchside for the presentation in Bayern ribbons.

This year Marseille, Sturm Graz and Croatia Zagreb should be less formidable adversaries in Group D with United boss Sir Alex Ferguson hoping for a less nerve-wracking time.

Croatia are now managed by Argentinean 1978 World Cup winner Osvaldo Ardiles, who will return to the English scene he graced both as player and manager, most famously with Tottenham.

But Ardiles can call on a host of Croatian national team stars and his team take on a very much under-strength United.

Nicky Butt (groin), Roy Keane (hamstring), Jesper Blomqvist (knee), Denis Irwin

(Achilles), Gary Neville (groin), Wes Brown (knee), David May (knee) and Ronny Johnsen (knees) have all been ruled out.

Italian goalkeeper Massimo Taibi and French defender Mickael Silvestre are unavailable because they were not signed before the Champions League transfer deadline while Ronnie Wallwork is also ineligible.

Michael Clegg is likely to play at right-back while David Beckham is switched to central midfield with former York City striker Jonathan Greening taking Beckham's usual berth on the right flank.

Australian keeper Mark Bosnich, who has had injury problems, could replace Taibi.

Marseille, meanwhile, host Sturm Graz in the other Group D clash with Courbis very much under fire after a dreadful start to the season.

Last season's runners-up in the French first division have only won one game so far this term, having parted company with leading stalwarts such as French World Cup winner Laurent Blanc in the summer.

A bad performance on Tuesday could be the death knell for Courbis with the fans already calling for his head.

In Group B Arsenal's Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp set off for Italy Sunday by taxi - he is scared of flying.

His more aeronautically-minded team-mates will take the plane as the London side look to banish memories of their exit in the group stages last season - Bergkamp missed a crucial game in Kiev because of his phobia in that campaign.

The pressure will be on Fiorentina keeper Francesco Toldo after his 86th-minute bungle cost his side two points in the 2-2 draw with lowly Reggina.

Barcelona, also eliminated at the first hurdle last season, travel to Sweden's unheralded AIK Solna with arguably the world's most in-form player Rivaldo in fine fettle after two goals against Espanyol in the Catalan derby.

Rivaldo, the Copa America player of the tournament for Brazil in the summer, had scored a hat-trick for his country against Argentina in mid-week and is now closing in on FIFA's World Player of the Year award with Manchester United and England midfielder David Beckham the only

other realistic candidate to take over the mantle of French World Cup winning hero Zidane.

With Real Madrid, who play Greek side Olympiakos on Wednesday, in a relatively easy group their arch-rivals Barca know the pressure is very much on.

In Group A Italian giants Lazio travel to Germany's Bayer Leverkusen wondering where the goals will come from following the sale of Christian Vieri to Inter for a world record fee and their failure to buy Arsenal's Nicolas Anelka, who instead went to Real Madrid.

In the other match in that pool Slovenian minnows Maribor - the most unexpected Champions League contenders after their preliminary round win over big-spending Lyon - travel to Dynamo Kiev, who reached the semi-finals last season.

Two former winners of the most prestigious club trophy in Europe clash in Group C when Dutch champions Feyenoord host Germany's Borussia Dortmund.

The other tie is a historic encounter. Rosenborg travel to Boavista, who become the first Portuguese club side outside the country's big three - Benfica, Sporting Lisbon and FC Porto - to play in the competition.

There are also several UEFA Cup games played on Tuesday night with two Yugoslav clubs having to play their home legs on neutral soil because of the air embargo on the country.

Sofia is the venue for former European champions Red Star Belgrade's clash with French outfit Montpellier, who were boosted by their 3-1 victory over local rivals Marseille on Saturday.

highlighting English outfit Leeds United, who beat Coventry City 4-3 on Saturday, at the Dutch base of SC Heerenveen.

There is the fear of crowd trouble at that game after the hasty switch of venue led to ticketing chaos.

German side Wolfsburg host unfashionable Hungarian side Debrecen while former European champions Steaua Bucharest host Austrian's Linz.

Spanish outfit Deportivo La Coruna have made a good start to their domestic campaign and visit Norwegian Stabæk while Denmark's Aalborg tackle Italians Udinese.

## Serie A

## Milan giants' mixed bag



MILAN, Sept 13: Inter Milan slammed on the brakes, while neighbours AC Milan hit the accelerator on Sunday as the top Serie A clubs suffered very mixed fortunes, reports AFP.

The bill-topping match at the Olympic stadium between Inter and AS Roma finished 0-0 under floodlights, since the champions AC Milan sent Euro rivals Chelsea a warning by whipping Perugia 3-1.

Inter were run ragged by Roma in the first half, with a series of chances falling to new striker Vincenzo Montella.

But Inter goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi was having a good night which is more than could be said for Ronaldo - and the team rallied in the second half before finally deserving their point.

Inter coach Marcello Lippi said: "We gave them a few chances in the first half and we just didn't play football. We didn't support the strikers, we just hit lots of balls forward."

"But in the second we really did play, and we played better than Roma. The team still isn't in top condition and can only improve."

AS Roma coach Fabio Capello said: "We were unlucky, we had a lot of chances."

Milan, who will be at Stamford Bridge in the Champions League on Wednesday, made the early running and Liberian George Weah set up two clear chances for new Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko, both of which went begging.

The Italian champions needed German ace Oliver Bierhoff to pounce on a defensive error from close range to break the deadlock in the 27th minute.

Japanese playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata engineered a Perugia comeback, avoiding three Milan defenders before picking out unmarked Marco Materazzi in the area, enabling the defender to score just before half-time.

But Shevchenko, who also scored on his debut two weeks ago, made up for his earlier mistakes by heading Milan into a 2-1 lead in the 59th minute after fine work by new Brazilian midfielder Serginho.

Shevchenko soon left the pitch and his replacement, Brazilian playmaker Leonardo, drove home Milan's third from a free-kick 10 minutes later.

Milan coach Alberto Zaccaroni was satisfied with the result but not the fact his team are incapable of keeping a clean sheet.

"We pushed for 90 minutes, we kept possession in the opposing half and we only conceded a goal in a goalmouth scramble. This an attacking team and the strikers did their job," he said.

"We gave little away to our opponents, but we made one of our typical mistakes in defence. Against Lecce we scored twice and today we scored three and it well for us. But we can't keep on scoring like this, we haven't got a production line out there."

Juventus courted disaster at Cagliari before they too earned their first win of the season, Antonio Conte nodding in the only goal of the game from an Alessandro Del Piero corner in the 62nd minute.

Juventus coach Carlo Ancelotti, who had urged his men to take all three points at whatever cost, said: "We've got a few weaknesses still, but the character was there and the team did well."

"We were on top until we scored, then Cagliari came back at us and we were struggling, and ran a few risks. But I think the result was a fair one. We needed this win, especially to help the players who aren't yet on top form."

Cagliari fans were, meanwhile, complaining about a controversial refereeing decision which cost their team a point. Belgian international Luis Oliveira rejoined the club from Fiorentina, hit the back of the net with a stunning 22-metre shot - only for the referee to disallow it for offside.

"We lost a match we could have drawn," said Cagliari coach Oscar Tabarez.

Elsewhere, Bologna drew their Emilia Romagna derby with Parma 1-1.

Bologna's Giuseppe Signori opened the scoring two minutes after the re-start, beating Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon with an angled shot.

But Parma levelled eight minutes from time when Diego Fuser curled in a free-kick and Bologna's Swedish midfielder Klas Ingesson, desperate to stop the back reaching Hernan Crespo, could only put the ball in his own net.

Parma had Croatian forward Mario Stanic sent off two minutes later for a second bookable offence but held on for their point.

Coach Alberto Malesani, who guided his men to the Italian and UEFA Cups last season, was frank about Parma's performance.

"We had a rotten game, there's a lot that needs to be put right," he said.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38 What rodents do	58 Polato bud	22 Showed unoriginality
1 Brat's answers	do	59 Pace	23 Greek city-state
5 Conrad's "lord"	39 Marlie's man	DOWN	24 Cordon for key words
8 Samples the Sauternes	41 Faust's merchandise?	1 Hunt for words	25 Idolator's emotion
12 Ex-Surgeon General	43 The Gay '90s, e.g.	2 Excellent	27 Mean
13 "Fine Day"	46 Hall's '60s quartet	3 Pop	29 Green Hornet's ally