

Sport

Roda rock Feyenoord

AMSTERDAM, Oct 16: Defending champions Feyenoord were beaten 2-1 by Roda JC Kerkrade in the Dutch First Division on Friday, dropping points for the fourth match in succession, reports Reuters.

Danish striker Jon Dahl Tomasson put Feyenoord in front after only three minutes when he scored from a tight angle after Roda's Australian goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac failed to hold a shot from Julio Cruz.

But the home side, third in the table to Feyenoord's sixth, began to take control and just seconds before halftime Davy Zafarin equaled from a cross by Nigeria's Garba Lawal.

Roda remained the more dangerous side after the break and in the 58th minute Arno Doornik scored what turned out to be the winning goal from a cross by Bob Peeters.

Feyenoord tried to get back into the match and coach Leo Beenhakker brought on an extra striker for defender Kees van Wonderen, who had to leave the pitch with a light ankle injury. But all their efforts were in vain.

PSV Eindhoven lead the table with a maximum 21 points from seven games ahead of Ajax Amsterdam, who have 20 from eight.

Roda are third with 19 points from nine games and Feyenoord sixth with 15 from nine.

Bid for Everton steps up

LONDON, Oct 16: The battle for ownership of English Premiership club Everton has moved up a gear with the news that a US finance house has had its bid accepted to buy out chairman Peter Johnson's 68 per cent controlling interest, club sources said Saturday, reports AFP.

On Monday, accountants representing Manhattan-based EM Warburg Pincus and Co can begin checking the books of the Goodison Park club with a view to the deal being completed.

It is believed that vice-chairman Bill Kenwright, who has been struggling for almost a year to win control of the club himself, will now have to join forces with another English consortium of businessmen to fight the US offer.

The Warburg Pincus bid, believed to have been brokered by computer games entrepreneur and Everton fan Paul Finnegan, has been presented to Johnson's Leeds-based brokers Arthur Anderson, and accepted by the now Jersey-based major shareholder.

A source said: "This is obviously subject to contract and due diligence."

In layman's terms, that means time for accountants to check the club's books, and that starts officially next week.

On Thursday the club hold their annual general meeting, where Kenwright could even be voted off the board by Johnson's majority control, and the scene is set for a battle royal between the US bidders and the theatre impresario.

An offer of around 30 million pounds (48 million dollars) from a group of high-powered English businessmen has already been rejected by Johnson.

Now shareholders expect Kenwright to hit back by agreeing to join forces with the businessmen's group to outbid Warburg Pincus.

Revin Nolan, spokesman for the club's shareholders association, confirmed that his organisation know about the US bid and accept that it is genuine, but he said: "I will believe it has happened only when the cheque has cleared the bank."

Sources believe that the Americans offer is only the beginning of another lengthy, and increasingly bitter, battle for control of the club.

Everton, a big club with a large fan base, have been forced to live in the shadow of their Merseyside neighbours Liverpool for much of the past two decades. They last won England's top division in 1987, but picked up the FA Cup in 1995.

Arsenal interested in Donadoni

MILAN, Oct 16: Former AC Milan playmaker Roberto Donadoni, now 36, is being sought by top English club Arsenal, the Italian press reported on Thursday, reports AFP.

Donadoni, who is out of contract with the Italian champions, has been made an offer and is expected to respond within days.

Coach Arsene Wenger reportedly sees the Italian as a deluxe substitute for the Gunners' campaigns in the Premiership and the European Champions League; someone who could still make a major contribution even if he only played for an hour or so.

The midfielder became an Italian, European and world champion with AC Milan after joining in 1986 and staying almost uninterruptedly until last season, when he made only nine appearances as they won the league.

Newcastle to miss Goma

LONDON, Oct 16: Newcastle United's French defender Alain Goma will be sidelined for up to six weeks with an Achilles injury, the club said Friday, reports AFP.

Newcastle received the news on the eve of their Premiership trip to Coventry City and Goma joins five other first team defenders on the casualty list.

Goma joined Newcastle from Paris St Germain.

There was some good news for Newcastle's manager Bobby Robson, as England winger Nwankwo Kalu has recovered from the calf problem which kept him out of Tuesday's 2-0 League Cup defeat at Birmingham City.

Fletcher counts on formers



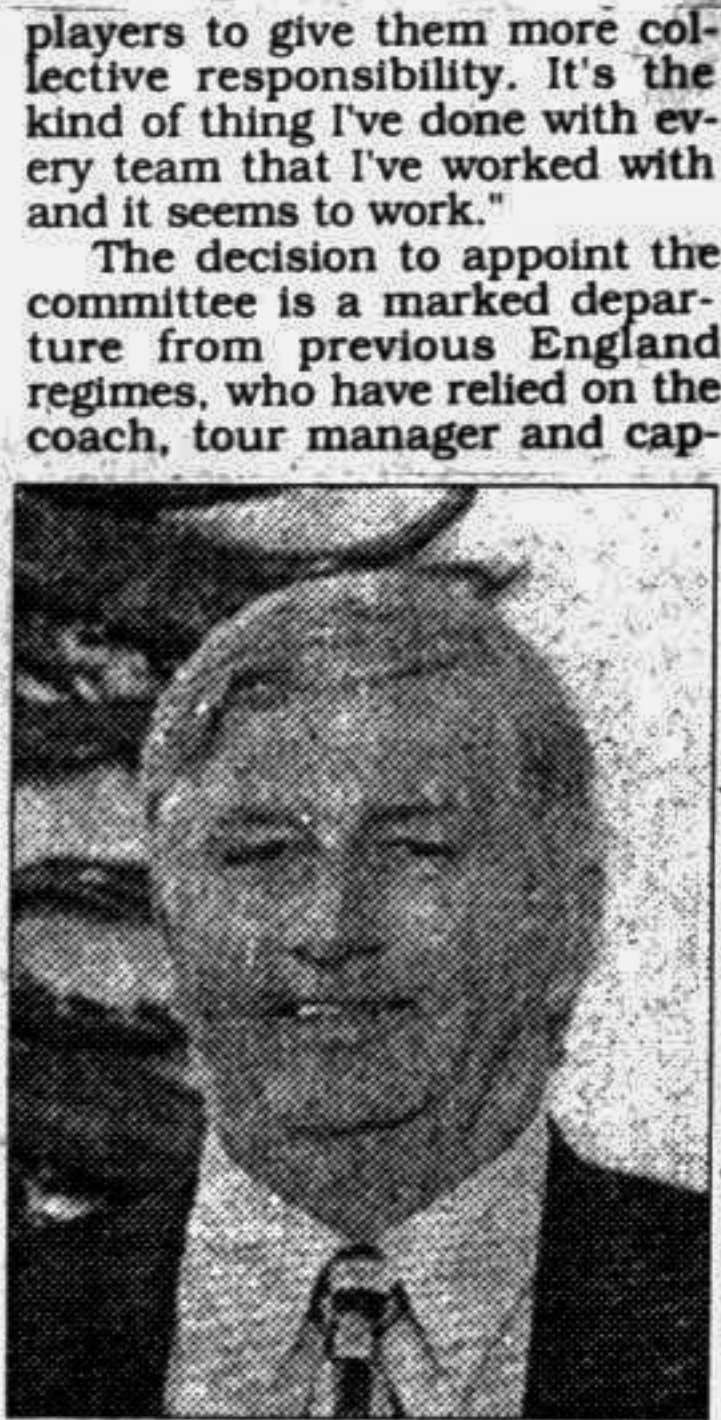
LONDON, Oct 16 (Internet report): Former England captain Alec Stewart and Michael Atherton are poised for leading roles in a newly-formed management structure implemented by coach Duncan Fletcher for this winter's tour to South Africa and Zimbabwe.

England's two most senior players, who have both made 90 Test appearances, are expected to complete a 'think tank' committee to lead the 17-man party during the gruelling four-month tour, which begins when they depart from Heathrow Airport on October 26.

They will join current captain Nasser Hussain and coach Fletcher on the management panel and the four-man committee will rule and decide on most of the tour issues, including selection.

"There are certain structures I'm discussing with Nasser," revealed Fletcher, who formed a similar committee during his time at Glamorgan featuring captain Matthew Maynard, Tony Cottee, Hugh Morris and Steve Watkin.

"I want to put a management structure in place among the



DUNCAN FLETCHER

tain to take charge and signals the first of many changes proposed by Fletcher as he at-

tempts to haul England off the bottom of the unofficial Test rankings before the end of his two-year contract.

"It doesn't just relate to matters on the field, it relates to everything," added Fletcher. "It's like setting up in the business world. They will throw up ideas and the captain is chief executive and he makes the decision on the ideas thrown about by the management team. I like to see the captain in charge and I sit on the committee as a consultant."

At least England will depart for Johannesburg with their chosen party with injury doubts Darren Gough, Alex Tudor and Dean Headley having all been given the all-clear to resume training by medical experts.

Captain Hussain confirmed: "Gough and Tudor were the main injury doubts, but both of them have been passed fit. They are raring to go, they have both started training again and have both spent a week down at Lille-shall."

"They have been working on getting aerobically fit again after getting the medical all-clear. They haven't bowled yet, because we're saving that until they get out to South Africa."

Collymore unwanted



LONDON, Oct 16: Aston Villa manager John Gregory has insisted controversial striker Stan Collymore has no future at his club and is aiming to thrash out a compromise deal with Fulham, where he was on loan, reports AFP.

The London club are unwilling to pay any money up front for Collymore who has just completed a three-month loan spell at Craven Cottage, but they are interested in a pay-as-you-play deal.

The First Division promotion-chasers, financially backed by Egyptian millionaire Mohamed al-Fayed, are ready to take over the remaining 18 months of Collymore's contract, worth some 1.75 million pounds (3 million dollars).

The main hurdle will come if Villa chairman Doug Ellis re-

Raul obliges Jordan

MADRID, Oct 16: Real Madrid striker Raul Gonzalez answered an unlikely request for an autograph this week — sending a signed club shirt to basketball player Michael Jordan, reports Reuters.

Spanish sports daily Marca



reported on Friday that Jordan made the request through friends holidaying in Valencia.

Raul, a long time Jordan follower, was happy to oblige with his own piece of fan mail inscribed on the famous white shirt.

"For Michael Jordan, the greatest sportsman of all time, from a great admirer, Raul Gonzalez," he wrote on the front of his number seven shirt.

MLS playoffs

DC United the feared



WASHINGTON, Oct 16: Regular season champion D.C. United remains the team to beat in Major League Soccer, seeking a third title and fourth finals berth in the four-year history of the United States football league, reports AFP.

"I think D.C. are the favorites until they are beaten," said US national team coach Bruce Arena, who guided United to two titles and missed a third only when the Chicago Fire upset United 2-0 in last year's title match.

United's quest for a berth in the November 21 final at Foxboro, Massachusetts, begins here Saturday when the Eastern Conference champions open their best-of-three first-round series against the Miami Fusion.

Other first-round matchups

find Tampa Bay meeting Columbus, reigning champion Chicago facing Dallas and Western Conference champion Los Angeles playing Colorado.

United are on a four-match winless streak but had long ago clinched the top playoff berth and finished 23-9, leading the league with 65 goals behind the scoring skills of Marco Etcheverry, Jaime Moreno and Roy Lassiter.

Miami coach Ivo Wortmann made huge changes in the Fusion line-up with little improvement. The Fusion went 13-19 and open against United in the playoffs for the second year in a row.

Miami sent Colombian midfielder Carlos Valderrama to Tampa Bay, opening salary room to sign defender Arley Palacios, midfielders Edwin Gorter and Brian Kamler and forwards Welton and Eric Wynalda.

Los Angeles Galaxy won the West with a 20-12 record, the same record as first-round foe Colorado. But the Rapids had not scored in an MLS-record 499 minutes and they face the top defense in MLS history, having allowed only 29 goals this season.

The Galaxy opened 4-7 and fired coach Octavio Zambrano. New coach Sigi Schmid used Cobi Jones, Carlos Hermosillo and defense to move to the top. Colorado struggled once goalkeeper Marcus Hahnemann was lost to England's Fulham.

Ecuadorian scorer Ariel Graziani and MLS scoring champion Jason Kreis spark the Dallas Burn, who ranked second in goals and defense. Chicago counters with goalkeeper Zach Thornton and tough defense the trademarks.



An AFP file photo shows Japanese forward Masakiyo Maezono (R) playing in an Asian Cup game against Kuwait in 1996. Maezono will play for Portuguese First Division side Vitoria Guimaraes from January next year.

Sampdoria punished

MILAN, Oct 16: Italian soccer authorities on Friday banned Sampdoria from using their ground for six matches after violence flared at an Italian Cup match on Tuesday, the first soccer match in Italy to be run by two referees, reports Reuters.

Italy's sports court awarded the second-round, first-leg match to Bologna, who were leading 1-0 when the referees called a halt.

The match at Sampdoria's home ground in Genoa was abandoned five minutes into the second half after Sampdoria fans pelted Bologna and former Sampdoria goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca with oranges, waterbombs, plastic bottles and metal bathtubs.

The soccer panel described the behaviour of the home fans as "delinquent" and said it was clear that the violence had been premeditated.

It said its decision had taken into account the actions of Sampdoria players who had tried in vain to calm down their supporters.

Chief referee Roberto Rosetti led the teams off the pitch under the gaze of top FIFA and UEFA officials who were at Sampdoria's Marassi stadium to see the experimental tie — the first of its kind in Italy and one of the first in the world.

Pagliuca, who spent eight seasons with Sampdoria and helped them to their only league success in 1991 and the European Cup final a year later, said after the match was stopped that he did not understand the reaction of the fans.

Sampdoria and Bologna met six times last season and Bologna knocked Sampdoria out of the Intertoto Cup and Italian Cup.

They drew 2-2 on the penultimate day of the league season, a game that included a controversial penalty awarded to Bologna, which scored on the stroke of full time.

That result condemned Sampdoria to relegation from Serie A for the first time in 17 years.

Police preparing for the worst

LONDON, Oct 16: British police went on high alert on Wednesday in an attempt to curb trouble at next month's Euro 2000 play-off matches between England and Scotland, reports AFP.

The so-called Auld Enemies of British soccer — who no longer meet regularly because there was so much trouble surrounding their matches — were drawn together to battle for a place in next summer's finals of the competition in Belgium and Holland.

The first England-Scotland match will be at Hampden Park, Glasgow, on November 13 with the return at Wembley four days later.

A spokesman for Britain's National Criminal Intelligence Service said: "We have some concerns. It is a match with a history of hooliganism, and the football stakes are very high."

We will be liaising very closely with our colleagues in the Metropolitan Police, Strathclyde Police, and British Transport Police, and affording them whatever help and facilities we can."

The last time the counter met, during the finals of Euro 96 at Wembley, there was a carnival atmosphere at the ground but trouble in the West End of London afterwards.

Regular matches were removed from the football calendar in 1989 because of years of trouble.

Perhaps the most infamous incident came in 1977 when Scots fans celebrating a Wembley victory invaded the pitch, digging up turf and damaging goalposts.

Scottish Football Association security chief Willie McDougall said: "From a security point of view this is not an easy game to police. But our aim is to make Hampden a safe venue."

Chief Superintendent Richard Gray, match commander for the first leg at Hampden Park, said that he wanted the kick-off to be brought forward to 1:00 pm (12:00 GMT) to try to prevent fans drinking in pubs in the city before entering the newly-completed 52,000 all-seater stadium.

The Republic of Ireland face a hard task to qualify after being paired with Turkey in the draw in Aachen, Germany and there are concerns about the reception Irish fans will receive when they travel to Turkey for their second leg match.

Maezono to play in Portugal

TOKYO, Oct 16: Japan's Atlanta Olympics team skipper Masakiyo Maezono will play for Portuguese First Division league Vitoria Guimaraes from January, officials at his former J-League club Verdy Kawasaki said Saturday, reports AFP.

Maezono, who will turn 26 later this month, signed provisionally with the club Friday and was to leave for Portugal next week.

Maezono played for Brazilian club Santos for three months from October last year on loan from Verdy Kawasaki and then joined another Brazilian club Goias until May before leaving for Europe in search of a new club without success.

In the J-League, he played 178 games and scored 33 goals. He joined the national team in 1994 for the first time and scored four goals in 20 games.

"I'm anxious because I've never left the pitch for such a long time, but I'm determined to score as many as possible. Hopefully, I can make a formal contract with the club and join the national team again for the '2002 World Cup,'" said Maezono.



Olympique Lyon's Serge Blanc (R) and Marseille's Frederic Brando fight for possession. — AFP photo

French First Division

Lyon owe Sonny one



PARIS, Oct 16: The game of musical chairs among the leaders in the French First Division continued with Lyon regaining the summit after a rare 1-0 win away to Marseille, reports AFP.

Marseille, conquerors of Paris St Germain Tuesday, could have been excused for having only half a mind on this game in light of their crucial Champions' League clash with Manchester United on Tuesday.

United won the first leg 2-1 at Old Trafford.

Lyon's win, thanks to their in-form Brazilian striker and former Marseille hitman Sonny Anderson, not only lifted them a point clear of Auxerre but also gave them a timely boost before their own Champions' League tie with Celtic at home on Thursday.

Anderson, who scored both goals in his side's defeat of Nantes midweek, once again proved the lion of Lyon.

Pouncing on a defensive blunder by Marseille's William Gallas Anderson slotted the ball past keeper Stephane Porato for a 37 minute strike.

This came after Ravanelli

had gone close with a curling left footer drawing on all of the visiting keeper's acrobatics to keep it out of his net.

Florian Maurice, hero of Marseille's 2-0 win at PSG, then had a goal disallowed for offside, and went close to equalising, blasting a freekick past the Lyon wall into the waiting hands of Gregory Coupet.

After the interval Anderson was unlucky not to add a second, picking up a fine pass from Vikash Dhorasoo but his low

shot slithered wide of the left post.

Marseille almost redeemed the situation thanks to deft work by substitute and ex-Evton striker Ibrahima Bakayoko in the box with a dozen minutes remaining but the French league's tightest defence held firm to inflict Marseille's first home defeat since February 1998.

This was Lyon's first win in the Cote d'Azur stronghold in ten seasons.

STANDINGS

French First Division League table after Friday's match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Lyon	11	5	3	2	13	7	21
Auxerre	10	6	2	2	16	12	20
Monaco	10	5	2	3	21	12	17
Marseille	11	4	5	2	14	10	17
PSG	10	5	2	3	14	11	17
Sedan	10	5	1	4	16	18	16
Bordeaux	10	4	3	3	18	15	15
St Etienne	10	3	4	3	17	17	13
Bastia	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
Strasbourg	10	3	4	3	10	12	13
Metz	10	2	6	2	11	9	12
Nantes	10	4	0	6	11	12	12
Troyes	10	4	0	6	10	15	12
Nancy	10	3	2	5	15	15	11
Rennes	10	3	2	5	14	17	11
Montpellier	10	3	2	5	13	17	11
Le Havre	10	2	4	4	11	16	10
Lens	10	2	2	6	6	14	8

Bundesliga

Dortmund, L'kusen rebound



COLOGNE, Oct 16: Borussia Dortmund and Bayer Leverkusen made good their embarrassing German Cup defeats to Second Division sides Friday with Bundesliga victories, reports AFP.

Dortmund's 0-2 win at Arminia Bielefeld keeps them top of the table while Leverkusen move up to second after their runaway 4-1 win at home over SSV Ulm.

Leverkusen blew away SSV Ulm in less than 20 minutes, largely due to Ulf Kirsten's quick pair of goals in the 14th and 18th minutes.

In the 12th minute defender Boris Zivkovic put Leverkusen ahead, initiating their comeback, after a defensive blunder by Borussia Dortmund's first half purple patch, it was crowned by Brazilian Robson Ponte with his 67th minute goal.

Giuseppe Reina — known as 'Billy the Kid' for his precise and ruthless finishing — shot Dortmund to their first victory at Arminia Bielefeld since 1971 although he only played half an hour.

"We played very well tonight and had the same number of chances to score as Borussia Dortmund, four or five big ones, but Dortmund scored two goals and we scored none and when you don't score you can't win," Bielefeld coach Hermann Ger-

land summed up glibly.

Dortmund had to be patient for their victory and looked invigorated after the break, especially when Victor Ikpeba was substituted for Reina on the hour.

Reina, a former Bielefelder, put the visitors' first goal on the board 12 minutes after entering the fray with an artistic spin shot, then crashed the ball off the left upright with three minutes to play. Lars Ricken broke through Bielefeld's inattentive defence and pushed the loose

ball over the line.

"We made better use of our chances up front and played better after the break," Dortmund trainer Michael Skibbe said.

"Arminia really pushed us in the first half and had two really excellent opportunities to go ahead and were unlucky to put the ball just wide. There wasn't much separating us tonight. I'm happy with my team's form. We played much better than a few days ago in the German Cup."

STANDINGS

Bundesliga table after Friday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Borussia Dortmund	8	6	1	1	13	3	19
Bayer Leverkusen	8	5	2	1	15	8	17
Sv Hamburg	7	4	2	1	17	9	14
SC Freiburg	7	3	2	2	15	8	11
Bayern Munich	7	3	2	2	8	11	11
VfL Wolfsburg	7	3	2	2	12	13	11
1860 Munich	7	3	1	3	12	9	10
Hertha Berlin	7	2	4	1	11	11	10
VfB Stuttgart	7	3	1	3	7	9	10
Werder Bremen	7	2	3	2	16	8	9
Schalke 04	7	2	3	2	8	9	9
Kaiserslautern	7	3	0	4	10	16	9
Arminia Bielefeld	8	2	3	3	6	12	9
Eintracht Frankfurt	7	2	1	4	9	10	7
Unterhaching	7	2	1	4	7	10	7
Hansa Rostock	7	2	1	4	8	18	7
SSV Ulm	8	1	2	5	9	16	5
MSV Duisburg	7	0	3	4	7	13	3

IAAF to start rankings by 2000

FUNCHAL, Madeira, Oct 16: An experimental world ranking system for athletes will be introduced before the start of the 2000 season, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said on Friday, reports Reuters.

The IAAF said the intention was announced by president Primo Nebiolo at a news conference in the mid-Atlantic Portuguese island of Madeira.

Nebiolo also gave details of the Golden League schedule for 2000 and said the Grand Prix final would be staged in Doha, Qatar, on October 4, just a few days after the Sydney Olympics which end on October 1.

Nebiolo said the IAAF's Golden League series would start on June 30 with the second meeting scheduled for July 7. Those meetings would be in Rome and Paris, with a decision yet to be made on which date to attribute to which venue.

Other dates were:

July 28 — Oslo

August 11 — Zurich

August 18 — Monte Carlo

August 25 — Brussels

Sept 1 — Berlin

Nebiolo said all the Golden League meetings would be held on Fridays to maximise television coverage.



Briton Greg Rusedski playing backhand against Frenchman Sebastian Grosjean at the Austrian Indoor on October 15. Rusedski won 7-5, 6-2. — AFP photo