

Pollock plunders Zimbabwe

BLOEMFONTEIN, Oct 29: Shaun Pollock took four wickets as Zimbabwe stumbled to 121 for seven at tea on the first day after being sent in to bat in their Test match against South Africa at Springbok Park on Friday, reports AFP.

Pollock took full advantage of a pitch which offered good bounce to the fast bowlers as he claimed four for 34, upstaging his new ball partner Allan Donald, who took one for 32 in the first Test match played in Donald's home town of Bloemfontein.

The top order were swept aside as Hansie Cronje's decision to field was justified. Only visiting captain Alistair Campbell, who made 27, offered resistance before a seventh wicket stand of 38 between Gavin Rennie (14) and Guy Whittall (22) not out.

Zimbabwe's troubles started when Pollock trapped Grant Flower lbw for nought with his second ball. He followed up in his fifth over when Murray Goodwin top-edged a hook to wicketkeeper Mark Boucher.

Zimbabwe slumped to 79 for six when Pollock had Andy Flower lbw and Campbell caught by Lance Klusener at gully off a rebound from Cronje at the slip. In between, Donald had Neil Johnson caught behind.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the Test between South Africa and Zimbabwe at Springbok Park Friday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings

G Flower lbw b Pollock	0
Gripper run out (Dippenaar)	16
Goodwin c Boucher b Pollock	7
Campbell c Klusener b Pollock	27
A Flower lbw b Pollock	13
Johnson c Boucher b Donald	6
G Rennie c Cullinan b Kallis	14
G Whittall not out	22
B Strang not out	4
Extras (lb-5; nb-4; w-3)	12
Total (For 7 wts in 57 overs)	121
To bat: Henry Olonga, Mpumelelo Mbangwa	
Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-14; 3-40; 4-63; 5-78; 6-79; 7-117	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Donald	14	4	32	1
Pollock	15	3	31	4
Klusener	13	5	21	0
Kallis	12	4	27	1
Adams	3	1	5	0

SOUTH AFRICA: Adam Bacher, Boeta Dippenaar, Jacques Kallis, Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (Captain), Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Allan Donald, Paul Adams.

Prawns are not for M Wasim

BRISBANE, Oct 29: Pakistan batsman Mohammad Wasim spent three hours in a hospital after a severe allergic reaction to the first and last prawn he ever ate, reports AFP.

Wasim had one tentative bite of prawn during dinner at the team hotel and was rushed to Royal Brisbane Hospital soon afterwards when he started vomiting, his eyes puffed up and rashes broke out on various parts of his body.

The tourists had their first look at Allan Border Field on Friday, where they play Queensland in a four-day match starting Saturday but Wasim was not seeing much because his eyes, hidden behind sunglasses, were still swollen.

He has asked team manager Yawar Saeed to be given until Saturday morning to prove he is healthy enough for Pakistan's final match before the First Test at the Gabba from November 5.

"It was just a small piece of prawn," said Wasim, who scored an even 100 against Western Australia at the WACA Ground in Perth on Wednesday night.

"They gave me injections (at the hospital) in my hands and legs and gave me oxygen because I wasn't breathing properly. It was a little scary because I've never been through anything like this before."

Wasim is a certain starter for the First Test and had no hesitation in claiming the Pakistanis possessed a stronger bowling attack than the hosts.

The battle between the new ball pairings of Shoaib Akhtar and Wasim Akram and Australia's Glenn McGrath and Damien Fleming, plus Shane Warne's duel with fellow spinners Mushtaq Ahmed and Saqlain Mushtaq, will go a long way to deciding the Test.

Asked if Pakistan had the edge on Australia in any area, Wasim said: "I think in bowling. We have got the pace and two all-rounders and two of the best spinners."

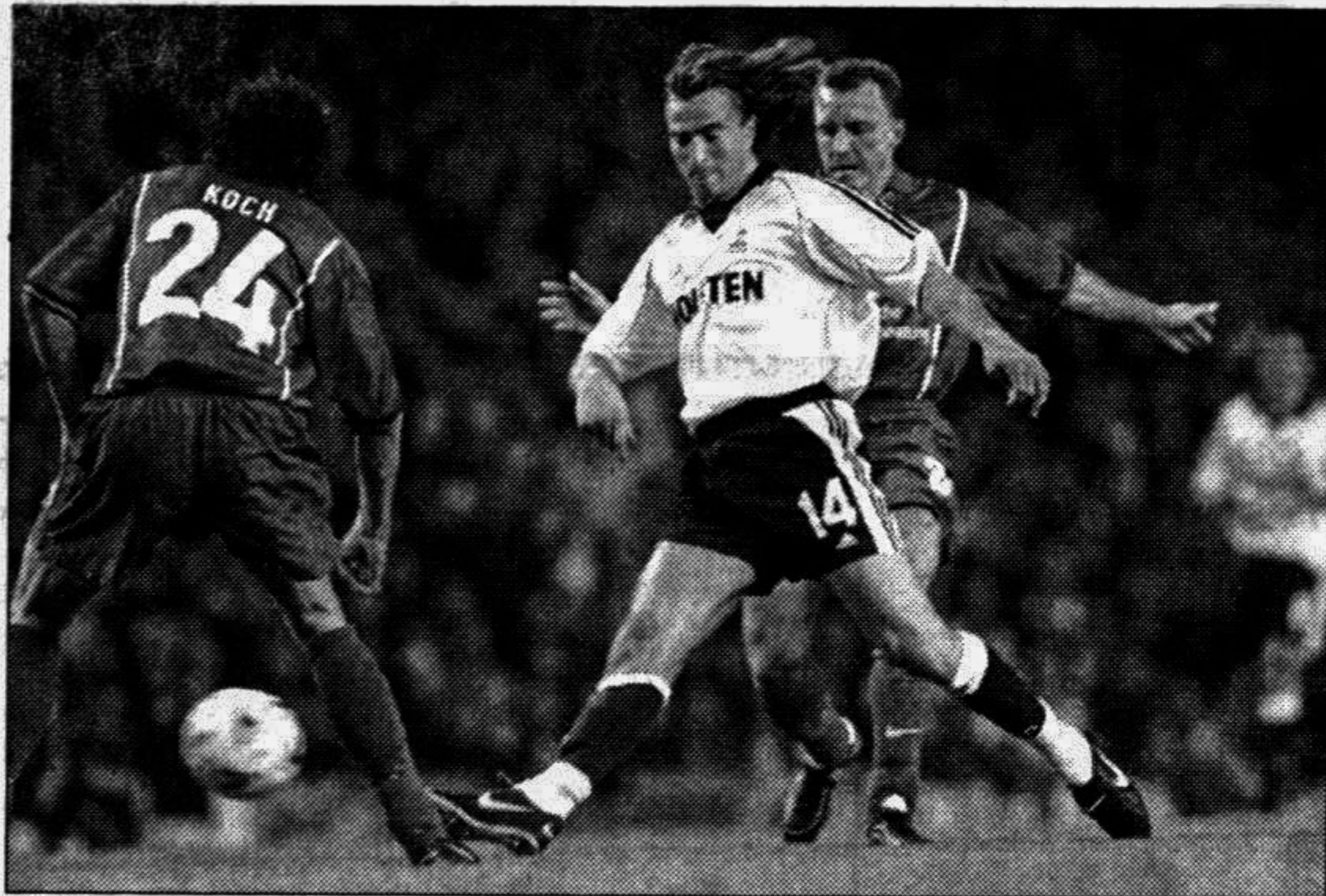
"It is always hard to beat Australia over here but we are looking forward to the series because we have been playing well for six or seven months."

Wasim said McGrath was an excellent bowler but claimed the big new South Welshman did not have the firepower of Akhtar, the world's quickest and potentially deadliest pacer.

"McGrath just concentrates on line and length without worrying about pace, he bowls nicely and it will be a good contest between him and our bowlers."

Cuban boxer to be tried in USA

HAVANA, Oct 29: Cuba said yesterday it would not object to a fair trial in the United States of its boxing hero Teofilo Stevenson, who was briefly detained in Miami at the weekend for allegedly roughing up an airline worker, reports Reuters.



Tottenham Hotspur's Frenchman David Ginola (C) is under pressure from Kaiserslautern's Martin Wagner (R) during their UEFA Cup second round clash at White Hart Lane on October 28.

UEFA Cup second round first leg

Lens cruise, Spurs scrape

LONDON, Oct 28: Frenchman David Ginola won a controversial penalty at White Hart Lane which Steffen Iversen converted to give English club Tottenham Hotspur a 1-0 victory over Kaiserslautern of Germany in their UEFA Cup second round, first leg clash on Thursday, reports AFP.

In another second round, first leg game at Lens, the home side virtually assured themselves a spot in the next round by thrashing Dutch side Vitesse Arnhem 4-1.

Tottenham's French wing wizard appeared to play for a penalty 11 minutes before half-time as he went down under an innocuous challenge from goalkeeper Andreas Reinkens.

Turkish referee Orhan Erdemir pointed to the spot and Norwegian international Iversen kept his cool to drive the ball into the bottom left corner for his seventh goal of the season.

Iversen made amends for a glaring miss a minute earlier after Ginola had put him clean through on goal with a breath-taking pass.

With just Reinkens to beat, the blond striker shot tamely at him, when really he should have buried the chance.

Both teams were forced to employ a 4-5-1 formation as a result of injuries to strikers.

Chris Armstrong failed a fitness test on his ankle and

that left Iversen to again forage alone up front for Spurs.

Kaiserslautern lost French World Cup striker Youri Djorkaeff, who suffered a bruised testicle after being hit by the ball during Saturday's game, leaving Olaf Marschall on his own up front.

Mauricio Taricco also shaved a post for the home side before the interval and eight minutes into the second half Ginola hit a first time curler with his right foot which beat the goalkeeper but crashed back off the far post.

Kaiserslautern rarely threatened but their players congratulated each other at the end and they will be confident of overturning the deficit in the second leg next Thursday in Germany.

Lens' victory over Arnhem gave coach Francois Brissson high hopes of continuing his first ever European adventure.

Brisson, who took over from axed Daniel Leclercq the day after Lens squeezed through the first round, enjoyed an impressive attacking display from the northern French club.

Lens proved too much for Arnhem, eighth in the Dutch table, and Brissson must be optimistic about the second leg at the Gelredome ultramodern stadium, one of the venues for Euro 2000.

Lens didn't take long to get off the mark. Philippe Brunel put the 1997/98 French cham-

pions into the driving seat after just three minutes.

Brunel, who had a great night, was also involved in the second goal. He crossed from the left and an unmarked Pascal Nouma knocked the ball into the net from six metres after 17 minutes.

It had been two late goals from Nouma against Maccabi Tel Aviv which had put Lens through to this second round.

After the break, Lens nearly had another goal but Arnhem captain Marc Van Himtum cleared the ball off the line.

Arnhem eventually did pull a goal back but were a little fortunate. Nenad Grozdic surged into the area and fell when keeper Guillaume Warmuz challenged although it appeared as though the Lens player barely touched him.

Pierre Van Hooijdonk stroked the ball into the net in the 73rd minute past Warmuz for the goal.

Two minutes later, Lens had restored their two-goal lead. Cyril Rool crossed from the left and keeper Dragoslav Jevic and Alex Nyarko went up for the ball and the ball rebounded into the net.

Nyarko was credited with the goal though it wasn't clear he had got the touch.

Jocelyn Blanchard scored from an acute angle with three minutes to go following a cross from Charles-Edouard Coridon on the left to finish the scoring.

Bundesliga preview

Bayern's time to start delivering

COLOGNE, Germany, Oct 29: Bayern Munich host Wolfsburg on Saturday with ground to make up as they currently place just fourth in the Bundesliga two points adrift of leaders Dortmund, reports AFP.

The Bavarians did their Champions League hopes a power of harm in midweek by losing at PSV Eindhoven and desperately need a fillip at home.

Club president Franz Beckenbauer afterwards blasted last season's European Cup runners-up, who now will crash out of the competition if they fail to beat Group F rivals Glasgow Rangers in their final opening phase match.

Beckenbauer suggested that if Bayern showed similar form to Tuesday they would not be going much further after goals from Ruud van Nistelrooy and Luc Nilis either side of half-time cancelled out a striker from teenage star Roque Santa Cruz.

"I can't explain our lethargic showing," said Beckenbauer, who demanded an improvement.

Bayern can look forward to a return for both Mehmet Scholl and Thomas Strunz in midfield after a fortnight out with injury but a doubt lingers over Brazilian striker Paulo Sergio, who was substituted in Eindhoven with a groin strain.

The top clash of the weekend sees leaders Dortmund, who likewise are unsure of their Champions League futures after a home draw Wednesday against Feyenoord, take on a resurgent Hamburg, lying second and a point adrift, on Saturday.

The top sides are bunched together after nine matches and another contender, Bayer Leverkusen, have a chance to go top of the standings if they can beat Munich 1860, themselves hoping to leap into the top five.

In other games, Schalke 04 host a Hertha Berlin side shell-shocked after all but throwing away their Champions League chances in midweek after a 4-1 home thrashing by Galatasaray.

Fixtures

Friday: Werder Bremen v Hansa Rostock, Arminia Bielefeld, Eintracht Frankfurt.
Saturday: SV Hamburg v Borussia Dortmund, Schalke 04 v Hertha Berlin, VfB Stuttgart v Kaiserslautern, Bayern Munich v VfL Wolfsburg, Bayer Leverkusen v Munich 1860.
Sunday: Unterhaching SC Freiburg, MSV Duisburg v SSV Ulm.

MU confirm withdrawal

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 29: Manchester United on Thursday confirmed they will not play in this season's FA Cup, reports AFP.

The Football Association have received official confirmation from the Treble-winners that the holders will not be defending the trophy.

An FA statement revealed one of the chief reasons United did not want to do a U-turn was because they did not want to devalue the competition by entering a team other than their strongest.

The Old Trafford club had until Saturday afternoon to reconsider their position and throw their name back into the hat.

But United sent a letter to Lancaster Gate on Thursday stating that their stance has not changed.

Pressure had increased on United's chairman, Martin Edwards, and the Old Trafford board to change their minds and enter the competition despite their participation in FIFA's inaugural World Club Championship in Brazil in January.

United maintained all along that to play in the FA Cup and the World Club Championship would create fixture chaos as they bid to retain the Champions Cup and Premier League Cup.

But the statement released by the FA Thursday evening ended any talk of a U-turn. It said: "Manchester United have today confirmed they will not be entering this season's FA Challenge Cup."

"Over the past four months, since the FA and the club were confronted with special fixture pressures as a result of United's successes, together we have looked for a new solution. We have remained open-minded. We have never under-estimated the strength of public concern."

"The FA's hope, clearly stated back in June, was that United might take part in the World Club Championship in Brazil as well as in the FA Cup. Sadly, achieving this has proved elusive."

"We are well aware how agonising the decision has been for Manchester United. It was for us too."

"We know United will share with their fans, and all of us, the disappointment that a solution has not been found."

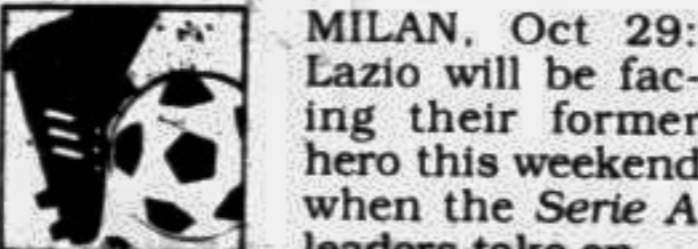
"Crucially the club, for totally understandable reasons, has not wanted to devalue the FA Cup as they see it, by entering a team other than their strongest. This would have been inevitable given their potential fixture congestion."

"Manchester United have confirmed to us their full commitment to the FA Cup in the future, and they will take their place in the competition."

"We are totally confident the unique circumstances of this season will not be repeated. The FA Cup remains very special."

Serie A preview

Vieri in for a bit of nostalgia



Christian Vieri's Inter Milan at San Siro, reports AFP.

Vieri's goals took Lazio to the brink of championship glory before a late slump cost them the title and their centre-forward left to become the most expensive player in history at nearly 50 million dollars.

Now Inter will be hoping for another return on that investment after losing their last two matches and having striker Ronaldo suspended after collecting a red card in last weekend's derby defeat.

Looking ahead to Saturday, Vieri said: "It will be a special game for me and I'll be happy to see my old teammates."

"I wish all of them well and I have to compliment them too - they really are a great side, perhaps the best in Europe."

Comparing the two teams, he said: "We've been playing together for a few months, while they've had a great squad for years."

But he added: "We'll be trying to win at all costs. For our own morale, but also for our fans."

Chilean players could very well decide the outcome here as Vieri will be partnered up front by Ivan Zamorano in Ronaldo's absence, while Marcelo Salas will lead the attack for Lazio.

Salas missed a couple of sitters in their Champions League draw with Bayer Leverkusen, but he is unlikely to be so merciful on Saturday.

Simone Inzaghi, a second-

half substitute on Wednesday, may get the nod this weekend after adding real bite to Lazio's attack against the Germans and setting up a series of chances for Salas.

Lazio, three points clear at the top, are expecting skipper



Alessandro Nesta to return from injury and help continue their fine run of form.

Some fans may be convinced that is Lazio's year but Nesta pointed out: "We were 10 points in front at one stage last season and we still lost the championship. So let's wait before saying we're favourites."

Second placed Juventus are at home to Piacenza, whose victory last weekend prompted Fiorentina coach Giovanni Trapattoni to offer his resignation.

Juventus boss Carlo Ancelotti is unlikely tender his on Sunday, the Zebras being

clear favourites to win in front of the home fans.

Alessandro Del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi will start up front. The only questionmark for Ancelotti is whether to use Dutch midfielder Edgar Davids, now back from an eye operation, from the start or as a substitute.

AC Milan, their morale in pieces after Tuesday's draw here with Chelsea, are away to lowly Verona, whose spirits are in no better shape after being dumped out of the Italian Cup by second division Ravenna.

Concentrating on the Serie A won't be easy for Italy's reigning champions, as they face Galatasaray in Istanbul next week not knowing whether they'll playing for a place in the Champions League or the UEFA Cup.

Milan will also be without central defender Fabian Ayala on Sunday after the Argentinian was sent off for felling Vieri in the derby.

AS Roma are at home to Cagliari while Fiorentina, buoyed up after topping Arsenal, are at home to Torino.

Wembley matchwinner Gabriel Batistuta can expect an even more rousing welcome from the home fans than usual.

Serie A fixtures

Saturday: Fiorentina v Torino, Venezia v Bologna, Inter Milan v Lazio (evening kick-off).

Sunday: Juventus v Piacenza, Lecce v Perugia, AS Roma v Cagliari, Udinese v Reggina, Verona v AC Milan, Parma v Bari (evening kick-off).



Lens' Cyril Rool (R) and Pierre Vhoijdojk of Arnhem fight for possession during their UEFA Cup encounter on October 28.

Primera Liga preview

Tasty tie at Bernabeu

MADRID, Oct 29: In previous years it would have been a hot-blooded derby given extra spice by their presence in the title frame but this weekend is different, reports AFP.

Real Madrid and city neighbours Atletico have more than local pride at stake as they prepare for their first meeting of the season at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Saturday evening.

Atletico, title winners three seasons ago, finally wrenched themselves away from the bottom of the table last week with a 3-1 win over Real Valladolid following their worst start to a season in years.

Yet Real fans couldn't afford to crow from the other side of town as their club was embroiled in a crisis of its own.

The seven-times European champions, although through

to the Champions League second phase following Tuesday's win over Olympiakos, have not won in seven league outings.

Coach John Toshack said he saw signs of improvement in last week's draw at Seville but he is still trying to reconcile several possible permutations up front following the summer arrival of Nicolas Anelka from Arsenal.

The French international striker has started to look more comfortable in recent months but has yet to find the net, while fellow forwards Fernando Morientes and Raul have been in prolific form.

Anelka did get on the mark earlier in the week - but only playing virtual football on a Playstation console during a visit to Marca magazine!

Atletico hope they will not be on the receiving end of the real thing Saturday at the Bernabeu, where they have not won for nine seasons.

A week ago the Catalan giants moved a point clear of surprise packet Rayo Vallecano after a 4-0 romp over Athletic Bilbao at the Nou Camp as Rayo stumbled, losing 3-1 at home to Real Betis.

On Saturday Barca travel to Deportivo La Coruna, who are going well in the top five.

Vallecano, the pride of Madrid to date, can keep their unexpected challenge going if they win Sunday at Valladolid.

Third-placed Celta Vigo meanwhile travel to Alaves.

Fixtures

Saturday: Malaga v Valencia, Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid, Deportivo La Coruna v Barcelona, Sunday: Numancia v Seville, Racing Santander v Real Mallorca, Espanyol v Real Zaragoza, Alaves v Celta Vigo, Real Betis v Real Sociedad, Athletic Bilbao v Oviedo, Real Valladolid v Rayo Vallecano.

Bergkamp devastated

LONDON, Oct 29: Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp said on Thursday that Arsenal's premature exit from the Champions League, for the second season running, was the biggest disappointment of his club career, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old striker has known all the highs and lows of the game in his distinguished career.

He was a UEFA Cup winner with Inter Milan, the double Footballer of the Year in England two years ago when Arsenal won both the Premiership and FA Cup, and a World Cup semi-finalist with Holland.

Wednesday's 1-0 Wembley defeat by Fiorentina was his 44th European tie, a defeat which knocked Arsenal out of the competition.

After the anti-climax of another failed Arsenal campaign at the top level he said: "Right now this certainly feels like my biggest disappointment."

"Of course, going out in the semi final of a World Cup in

France last year was a bad feeling, probably the worst.

"But in club football this felt just the same. It was just like defeat against the French team Lens which put us out last season - only it feels much worse a second time."

"The big frustration is that I'm sure that our results in the Champions League do not reflect the way we have played - especially in the away games at Barcelona and Fiorentina."

Bergkamp, who suffered again at the hands of Fiorentina's former Inter boss Giovanni Trapattoni whose defensive tactics he hated in Milan, admitted: "At Wembley our finishing has been a bit of problem and it is also harder to defend on the big pitch there."

"But I feel - and we all do - that we should have done much better. We all think we should be a better team than Fiorentina."

But while the Italian side - an ordinary-looking outfit, apparently in crisis after three consecutive Serie A defeats - now join Barcelona as the top two from Group B to reach the

last 16, Arsenal have to make do with the consolation of switching to the UEFA Cup to continue their European season.

Next Tuesday's final group game in Stockholm against AIK Solna - one of only three sides they have managed to beat at Wembley in five outings at their European home - is now rendered meaningless, a superfluous battle of losers.

At least the Arsenal players and fans will be able to cheer the decision to go back to Highbury for the UEFA Cup matches.

They have never been comfortable at Wembley even though it was another 73,000-plus crowd which urged them on against the Italians.

Many fans being locked out of 38,000-capacity Highbury, which is full for every Premiership game, but you suspect there will not be too many complaints.

Bergkamp said: "Going into the UEFA Cup doesn't seem much consolation now but maybe it will be good to give us some more experience."

French First Division preview

Marseille paying a price

MARSEILLE, France, Oct 29: Marseille's success in Europe have hampered their domestic preparations for their home match against Strasbourg on Saturday, reports AFP.

Spanish midfielder playmaker Ivan de la Pena is out for two weeks with a badly twisted right ankle and, in defence, William Gallas and Pierre Issa have been added to the injury list.

Their European Champions League qualification following a 3-2 defeat at Austria's Sturm Graz has come at a high price.

Gallas had problems finishing the match at Graz and Issa has a muscular injury to his left leg and both are doubtful for the weekend.

Marseille lie in seventh spot, seven points behind leaders Lyon.

Fourth-placed Paris Saint Germain must do without three key players in their away game at Le Havre.

Their talented Nigerian playmaker Jay-Jay Okocha, who pulled his left hamstring, is still not back to full fitness. Mickael Madar and Eric Rabesandratana are also out suspended.

Brazilian Cesar is set to make his full debut as his rival in the team Bruno Carotti has only just had a groin muscle operation and is unlikely to be included in Philippe Bergeroo's

starting line-up.

Third-placed Bordeaux, like PSG just three points behind Lyon, must do without key players.

Bordeaux, who earned their ticket into the European Champions League second phase last week, are without Jerome Bonnisse, Lassina Diabate and Pascal Feindouno for their match at Nancy.

Bonnisse and Diabate are suspended and Feindouno is away on international duty with the Guinean squad.

Blatter against floating share

BERLIN, Oct 29: FIFA president Sepp Blatter said he was opposed to floating FIFA shares on the stock exchange in an interview with German daily Handelsblatt to be published on Friday, reports AFP.

Blatter also expressed his doubts about clubs doing the same thing. "In football, there are always winners and losers. They can't all succeed, neither on the pitch or on the stock exchange," Blatter was quoted as saying.

"As long as I am at FIFA, we will not be floated on the stock exchange," he added but did concede the idea would be broached in the FIFA committee for strategic studies.

Vikash Dhoraso is a doubt for table-toppers Lyon for their match at Sedan on Friday.

Dhoraso, a French national but of Mauritius origin, was only just fit for the match with Scotland's Celtic in the UEFA Cup last week, according to coach Bernard Lacombe.

Central defender Hubert Fournier, who has an injured hand, and midfielder knee victim Pierre Laigle, are still out of Lyon's reckoning.

Meanwhile, Monaco are still without keeper Fabien Barthez following his operation to remove a bad bruise on his left thigh after a dead leg. Tony Sylvia is set to deputize for the World Cup winning keeper.

Monaco, in fifth spot, travel to Nantes in Friday's other game.

Norway's John Arne Riise in midweek extended his contract with Monaco. The new contract takes the 19-year-old midfielder, who joined Monaco in June 1998, up until 2006.

Other matches include St Etienne v Metz, Bastia v Troyes and Auxerre v Montpellier on Saturday, and Lens against Rennes on Sunday.

Fixtures

Friday: Sedan v Lyon, Nantes v Monaco.
Saturday: Le Havre v Paris SG, Nancy v Bordeaux, St Etienne v Metz, Bastia v Troyes, Marseille v Strasbourg, Auxerre v Montpellier.
Sunday: Lens v Rennes.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
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8 Reedy	3 Reason for a tarp
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13 Constellation	5 Rower's need
14 Facility	6 Work with notation
15 With 1	7 Prepped for place-kicking
Across, Daytona entry	8 After-shock
15 Garland	9 Dobbin's dinner
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18 Porch, in Hawaii	11 Nancy Drew's longtime beau
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21 "Holy cow!"	
24 Firm	
28 Gunpowder, for example	
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