Euro 2000 play-off

Owen's improving, Dyer out

LONDON, Nov 3: England striker Michael Owen on Tuesday insisted his enforced injury lay-off would not affect his performance against Scotland in the European Championship play-offs later this month, reports AFP.

The Liverpool striker limped off with a hamstring strain after only 10 minutes at Southampton 17 days ago and now only has Saturday's visit of Derby to get some match fitness before the two-legged clash with the Scots on November 13 and

"The injury is coming on fine," he said. "I've started full training with the lads and there's been no reaction.' "I've only missed a week of

football so I think I will be sharp. If I'd missed five months maybe it would have been different, but with it being just a week I don't think it's too long.

"I've not been sitting on my bum doing nothing since I've been away. I've been training but just not using my legs as England manager Kevin Kee-

gan will, however, be without

Newcastle midfielder Kieron The 20-year-old is to undergo surgery on a long-standing calf injury on Wednesday and is expected to be out of action for

Zagreb hold Marseille

between four and six weeks.

PARIS, Nov 3: Croatia Zagreb and Marseille shared a 2-2 draw in European Champions League Group D here Tuesday, reports AFP.

However, the result was a meaningless one with Marseille and defending champions Manchester United already assured of a place in the next phase at the expense of the Balkan side and Austria's Sturm Graz.

Croatia Zagreb, who sacked Argentinian coach Osvaldo Ardiles after failing to progress, showed an enterprising approach and made most of the early running.

Daniel Saric hit a wickedly swerving shot after eight minutes that Marseille goalkeeper Stephane Porato did well to

Two minutes later Tomo Sokota delayed too long after being set up Edin Mucjin.

Then veteran Robert Prosinecki - a World Cup star for Yugoslavia in 1990 and for Croatia in 1998 - almost scored with a long-range effort that just went over the bar.

But then Marseille almost went ahead with the clearest chance so far. Ibrahima Bakayoko battled for the ball which broke to Argentinian Daniel Montenegro with Zagreb keeper Tomislav Butina stranded.

However, defender Stepjan Tomas was quick to react and cleared Montenegro's shot off the line.

Three minutes before halftime Marseille were made to pay for that gaffe. Marseille failed to clear and the ball back to Mujcin, whose precise leftfoot shot beat Porato.

Shortly after the interval Mujcin sent a left-foot shot wide when well placed to grab a second. Then a goal was disallowed for offside.

But after 53 minutes Marseille squared the match. The goal was scored by

Bakayoko but much-maligned French World Cup winning star Christophe Dugarry deserved the lion's share of the credit. He beat one man and then managed to head the ball across

to Bakayoko who easily scored. But with six minutes remaining Croatia Zagreb snatched what looked like the winner.

A neat build-up exposed the Marseille defence and Mihael Mikic - earlier cautioned by Italian referee Pierluigi Collina for a blatant dive in a vain bid to win a penalty - turned the' ball in from close range.

But with a minute remaining Marseille snatched a second equaliser. Kaba Diawara, a close season signing from Arsenal, headed home from close range.

Four Croatia Zagreb supporters were arrested after skirmishes before tie.

Ten arrested in connection with fan's death

BELGRADE, Nov 3: Police have arrested ten people in connection with the death of a teenage football fan killed during fighting between rival clubs Partizan Belgrade and Red Star Belgrade last week, a police spokesman said Tuesday, re-

ports AFP. Red Star fan Aleksandar Radovic, 17, was seriously injured by a firecracker and later died in hospital.

The head of Partizan supporters club, Zoran Zivanovic and an official from the Branko Vucicevic club were among those arrested, police officer Miodrag Gutic was quoted as saying by the Beta news agency.

According to Gutic it was established beyond a doubt that four of the ten people arrested let off firecrackers and one was the fatal one that resulted in Radovic's death.

The firecrackers were brought into the stadium by the official from the Branko Vucicevic club in a sports bag, ac-

cording to the police officer. Outbreaks of violence between fans from the rival Belgrade clubs have been a frequent occurance over the past few years.

Partizan, who won the match 2-0, called for an immediate investigation into the incident.



Bologna's Conceicao Eriberto celebrates his strike against Anderlecht during their UEFA Cup second round second leg fixture at Bologna on November 2. - AFP photo

UEFA Cup second round second leg

Wolfsburg owe Akonnor one



UNDATED, Nov 3 (Reuters/Internet) : VfL Wolfsburg of Germany, French powerhouse Monaco, Italy's Bolo-

gua and AEK Athens of Greece all made it to the third round of the UEFA Cup after victories in their respective second round second leg matches on Tuesday. Wolfsberg scored a dramatic winner three minutes from

time to beat Dutch side Roda JC

Kerkrade 1-0 on at Berlin. Ghanaian Charles Akonnor broke the tense deadlock with the only goal from 12 metres out in the 87" minute. The first leg ended goalless in the Netherlands two weeks ago.

"That was an extremely tense attacking and counterattacking match," said Wolfsburg trainer Wolfgang Wolf. "Kerkrade didn't hold back at all and had the pressure on us from the start."

Wolfsburg, in eighth place in the Bundesliga, tried to break ahead early by sending three strikers up front but failed to Kerkrade looked the more

dangerous in the second half but it was Akonnor's goal that proved decisive. At Monaco, striker David Trezeguet's strike five minutes

from time gave the home team a 2-0 win over Widzew Lodz and sent them 3-1 on aggregate. Trezeguet volleyed in a cross from Sabri Lamouchi to relieve the team from the principality,

who struggled to overcome a

fierce challenge from their Polish opponents. Former French international Lamouchi opened the scoring from outside the box in the 50th minute from a cross by Argentine Marcelo Gallardo.

The first leg in Lodz ended in a 1-1 draw. "It was difficult against a

MELBOURNE, Au-

stralia, Nov 3:

Manchester Unit-

ed keeper Mark

Bosnich will lead

Australia against

Brazil later this month, reports

Wednesday chose the best-

known Socceroo to lead the

team in the internationals at

Sydney's Olympic stadium on

November 14 and at the Mel-

bourne Cricket Ground on

know by Thursday whether

per Alex Tobin from the squad

for his first game in charge of

the national side and made it

clear that Bosnich was only on

see how it suits him." Farina

"We'll see how he likes it and

Kewell will make the trip.

Soccer Australia should

Farina axed long-time skip- .

November 17.

trial as skipper.

Open yesterday.

Coach Frank Farina

solid, disciplined team and we were a little tired." Trezeguet

UEFA CUP COLLATED SUMMARIES

LONDON. Nov (Reuters/Internet): Collated summaries of Tuesday's UEFA Cup second round. second leg soccer matches:

In Athens: AEK Athens (Greece) 1 MTK Budapest (Hungary) 0 First leg: 1-2. Aggregate result: 2-2

AEK Athens win on away goals rule Scorer: Dragan Ciric 74pen Red cards: Czaba Feher (MTK) 56, Gabor Almay (MTK)

Halftime: 0-0; Attendance: 10,000

In Monaco: Monaco (France) 2 Widzew Lodz (Poland) 0 First leg: 1-1. Monaco win 3-

1 on aggregate Scorers: Sabri Lamouchi 50. David Trezeguet 84 Halftime: 0-0; Attendance:

In Bologna: Bologna (Italy) 3 Anderlecht Belgium) 0 First leg 1-2. Bologna win 4-2 on aggregate

Scorers: Eriberto 45, Jose Ze Elias 51, Carlo Nervo 90 Halftime: 1-0; Attendance: 25,0Q0 In Berlin:

VIL Wolfsburg (Germany) 1 Roda JC Kerkrade (Netherlands) First leg 0-0. Wolfsburg win-

1-0 on aggregate. Scorer: Charles Akonnor 87 Halftime: 0-0; Attendance:

Friendlies against Brazil

Bosnich to skipper Socceroos

"His organisation skills on

The 27-year-old said it was a

He said being recalled by

Things don't get much better

"I've known Frank for a

the field are excellent, which

steered me towards him for this

dream come true to captain

Manchester United to the first

XI and then being named to lead

the Socceroos had topped a

than this," Bosnich said from

while and he knows that I do a

lot of talking on the field and

because of my position on the

field I have the best view of the

game and I'd like to think I can

over Kewell is edging towards

Australia with the midfielder

now in with a chance of playing

Meanwhile, the tug-of-war

read the game as well."

great fortnight

Manchester.

Australia and it was a surprise.

Gallardo, described by Monaco officials as the best midfielder to play for the club since Glenn Hoddle, was again the most impressive man on the pitch.

Trezeguet also nodded in in the 74th minute but was disallowed for a foul on Polish goalkeeper Marek Matuszek.

Lodz fought bravely throughout but were never really in a position to upset their hosts.

At Bologna, goals from Brazilians Eriberto and Jose Ze Elias inspired the locals to a 3-0 win over Anderlecht of Belgium and a place in the third round 4-2 on aggregate.

Eriberto opened the scoring on the stroke of half-time when his header from 12 metres took a deflection and floated past Anderlecht goalkeeper Filip De Wilde.

There was also an element of good fortune about Bologna's second as Carlo Nervo put Ze Elias in on the left and his low shot struck Anderlecht defender Lorenzo Staelens and sneaked past a wrong-footed De Wilde at the near post. Anderlecht had their chances to take the game into extra time but substitute Elos Ekakia blasted wide with his close range volley and Jan Koller saw his shot five minutes

well blocked by Bologna goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca. The Italians secured their progression in the third minute of injury time when Carlo Nervo side-footed home after his initial shot had been parried by De Wilde.

in one of the Brazilian games.

"We have had positive talks

with the Leeds management

overnight and we expect a final

response within 24 hours," SA

chairman Basil Scarsella said

licly wave a big stick at the

Premier League leaders who

have ignored requests for

of SA the federation will again

ask world body FIFA to invoke

a ruling which will see Kewell

banned from playing in the

Premier league match against

Bradford City in the Yorkshire

against Brazil was planned to

coincide with a ten-day break

in the English season to allow

the release of players but Leeds

United manager David O'Leary

wants Kewell to fully rest.

The two-match series

derby on November 20.

But if the club tests the will

Kewell's services in the past.

SA has so far refused to pub-

Wednesday.

Away in Athens, a 74th minute penalty conversion from Dragan Ciric was enough for AEK to win the match 1-0 over MTK Budapest and a spot in round three on the away goals rule. The first leg had ended 2-1 in MTK's favour.

departure to prior arrange-ments where traditionally. England have only appointed a manager for tours and leave planning and preparation at consultation with the team hi-

erarchy. central figure in the organisation to improve the team's chances of succession the inter-

NEW YORK, Nov 3: The women's professional tennis circuit reportedly has ended an 18sponsor, reports AP.

completion a five-year contract with Sanex, a subsidiary of the Sara Lee Corporation, worth more than 40 million dollars, according to Brandweek maga-

The tour has been without a ended in 1998. The WTA Tour refused to

shampoos, skih creams, shower gels, deodorants, toothpastes and sun car products, is wellknown in Europe, Japan and

in the United States. The company already is the title sponsor of a tournament in Belgium. Greg pulls out

of Paris Open PARIS, Nov 3: Defending

out of the Paris Open on Wednesday after sustaining a leg injury while playing Spain's Albert Costa, reports AP. Rusedski abandoned after losing the first set to the

Spaniard 9-7 on a tiebreak. for the dlrs 2.5 million Paris

Clavet on Tuesday night.

expected later Wednesday.

- AFP photo

Premier League wants Villa to compromise

LONDON, Nov 3: The English Premier League on Wednesday called on Aston Villa manager John Gregory to reach a compromise with controversial striker Stan Collymore over a 40,000 pound (66,000 dollar) fine the player received last month for missing training, reports AFP ports AFP.

Both parties have been given a few days to try to reach an agreement. If they fail the Premier League have warned they will be forced to mediate in the matter.

Gregory handed out the twoweek fine to the former England striker after he failed to report for a reserve team training ses-sion following his return from a three-month loan spell with Fulham.

It cut no ice with the Villa chief when Collymore claimed he had a dental appointment -but the player believes the pun-ishment is too harsh.

Collymore, who is attracting the interest of Nottingham Forest, has appealed to the Professional Footballers' Association and now the Premier League hope a satisfactory solution can be found.

Premier League spokesman confirmed: "We have given both parties a few days to try to reach agreement over this matter. We assume they will try to sort something

"If not, a hearing will be set and they will be asked to state their cases to the board of directors of the Premier League."

Collymore said: "Once I received the fine, the PFA contacted me to say it was harsh and that they would represent me. I also felt it was harsh."

Neale's new assignment

LONDON, Nov 3: The English Cricket Board (ECB) on Wednesday appointed Phil Neale as the England cricket team's first full time operations manager for the next two years to help cope with the increasing demands of the international schedule, reports AFP.

The former Worcestershire captain, who is manager on the current tour to South Africa and Zimbabwe, will be responsible for pre-tour planning, arranging preparation periods. day-to-day planning of the team's activities and arranging tour travel and accommoda-

He will also liaise with chairman of selectors David Graveney to ensure England's leading players, who face seven Test and 10 one-day internationals every home summer from next year, receive necessary breaks and training and supervise the expected transition to centralised contracts. "Phil's managerial qualities

and administrative skills. along with his cricketing pedigree, suit him ideally to this important new appointment." said Simon Pack, the England and Wales Cricket Board's International Teams Director. "With expanding interna-

tional schedules and with the introduction of ECB central contracts next Spring, planning and programming the team's day-to-day activities is becoming increasingly important." Neale's appointment is a big

home to ECB back-up staff in But now Neale, who has previously managed three A tours and the Under-19's successful World Youth Cup campaign two winters ago, has become the

national stage. WTA gets sponsor?

month search for a new title The WTA Tour is close to

title sponsor since its threeyear deal with Corel, a Canadian computer software firm.

comment on the report, which was published Monday. Sanex, the manufacturer of Australia, but is not distributed

champion Greg Rusedski pulled

The Briton first hurt his leg at last week's Stuttgart Open where he was knocked out in the semifinals by Richard Krajicek. But he was declared fit

Pete Sampras' continued participation in the tournament is also in doubt after the American hobbled off court after beating Spain's Francisco

A statement on Sampras was

American Pete Sampras makes a backhand return against Francisco Clavet during their Sampras' shaky return The two-times champion Davis Cup star Sebastian Grosstaved off two break points in jean 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 win in the the opening game of the second pair's first meeting in another

> straight games to go 4-1 clear. In the seventh game Sampras fended off two more break points to move to 5-2 before levelling the tie with a fine volley to take the set 6-3.

set as Clavet started to feel the

pressure of his lead and sud-

denly Sampras was moving up a

gear or two, winning three

But the third set saw Clavet ratchet up his own game a notch and it took the tiebreak to separate them after Sampras had first saved three match points

at 5-6. Sampras found himself a minibreak down and he was living dangerously at 1-3 before recovering his composure. He got his nose in front at 5-

4 and then slammed over his 14th ace to seal the match when Clavet, who had never won a set against the former world number one in two previous clashes. returned long. Earlier. Russian teen Marat Safin provided the first shock

of the Super 9 event, ousting

tiebreaks against the former

fifth-seeded Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil in three sets after an enthralling two-hour encounter. The 34th-ranked Spanishbased Russian is making his first appearance at the event -but he showed few signs of nerves as he negotiated two

French Open champion. French fans had little to cheer as Fabrice Santoro lost a second round match in straight sets to Ecuador's 11th seed Nicolas Lapentti and it was left to Davis Cup star and French number one Cedric Pioline to save French honour as he ousted Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine in straight sets 6-1, 6-

Australian Open finalist and 1996 Paris winner Thomas Enqvist of Sweden ousted French

- AFP photo

Dutchman Sjeng Schalken kept everyone waiting in the opening match as he took almost three hours to see off Frenchman Arnaud Clement 7-6, 4-6, 7-6 to book a meeting with 16th seed Karol Kucera of Slovakia.

nightmare for France.

Elsewhere, Magnus Larsson of Sweden pulled out of the tournament with a neck injury. letting in Spanish world number 44 Juan-Carlos Ferrero.

Ferrero, title winner in Mallorca over Alex Corretja earlier this year, promptly made a superb debut on his Parisian debut as a lucky loser, ousting South Africa's Wayne Ferreira 4-6, 6-2, 6-2. The Spanish hope now takes

on British tenth seed Tim Henman in the second round. Seventh seed Nicolas Kiefer of Germany withdrew from the

event citing the same ankle in-

jury which forced him to pull out of Stuttgart a week ago. Kiefer said he still expected to stay in the race for Hanover despite his left ankle problem. Koubek of Austria ousted

Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty 7-5. 6-4 and now plays Haas while Marc Rosset won an all Swiss contest against George Bastl 7-Sampras did not appear for the usual after-match press

conference, having suffered during the match from a stiff back which had caused him extreme discomfort and which required rest. ATP Tour spokesman Nicolas Arzani re-"He has a stiff back, muscle

spasms. The doctor said he needs treatment but he thinks it's only a muscle problem -- not related to the injury in the summer. But he can barely walk," said Arzani.

Holyfield, Lewis bout Nov 13



LAS VEGAS, Nov 3: Evander Holyheld admitted on Tuesday that he had underestimated Lennox

Lewis ahead of their first fight and promised that he has learned from his mistakes. reports Reuters. "He had more skills than I

gave him credit for," said Holy-

Paris Open match on Tuesday.

PARIS. Nov 3: Fo-

rmer world num-

ber one Pete Sam-

pras made a bela-

ted but winning

return to action

Tuesday night after almost

three months out with back

problems, ousting Francisco

Clavet of Spain in three sets to

reach the last 16 at the 2.5-

million-dollar Paris Open.

duction for Sampras as he

saved three match points on the

way to a wafer-thin triumph

twice a champion here and

beaten by Greg Rusedski in last

year's final, didn't manage to

get on court until after 11 pm af-

ter the tournament organisers

showed a predilection for

cramming everybody they could

on to the Centre Court and

putting his match hours behind

hernial disc injury, took a set to

get going before a pitifully

small crowd of barely 2,000 as

the hordes of earlier in the day

headed home by midnight, be-

fore advancing 4-6, 6-3; 7-6 in

round date for a place in the last

eight with the winner of the

match between Germany's 13th

seed Tommy Haas and Austria's

in his last match -- a quarterfi-

nal against Vince Spadea in the

Indianapolis quarterfinal in

mid-August -- was almost

playing from memory as he

struggled to find his range in

the opening set after Clavet se-

cured a break for 2-1 and moved

out for a 5-3 lead before taking

the set 6-4 with a Sampras re-

turn into the net on the

Spaniard's first set point.

Sampras, who had to retire

unseeded Stefan Koubek.

That earns him a third

2hr 02min.

Sampras, finally over his

The third-seeded American,

But it was a painful reintro-

reports AFP.

lasting two hours.

field, who will take his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles into the November 13 Las Vegas heavyweight unification rematch with Lewis. "Lennox fought a great fight,

but I'm happy he didn't get the best of me." Holyfield said in a teleconference from his Houston training camp. Contrary to Holyfield's ver-

sion, however, most observers felt that the World Boxing Council champion clearly did get the best of him in their March bout. Only some very

36 "Stream-

wright

37 Othello's

people

42 "Pygma-

43 4th-

creatures

playwright

century

Greek

poet

48 Trouba

dour's

strings

colorful

Sharif

49 Sister

50 Not

51 Actor

38 Sea

ers" play-

52 Norm

DOWN

1 Resort

4 Magnate

5 Gridlock

noise

6 Peculiar

7 Sailor's

mal

jackets

8 Infinitesi-

9 Incursion

to cross-

words?

reader,

11 Palm

e.g.

ANNIEHALL

Yesterday's answer

Solution time: 23 mins.

10 A slave

(Abbr.)

53 Teasdale

or Lee

ACROSS

5 Ball in a

gym?

8 Very, in

1 Bat a gnat

Versailles

12 Sympathy

13 Praiseful

piece

14 Relaxa-

Jennifer

Lopez

movie

Nacht-

musik"

18 Erstwhile

fragment

acorn

21 Sitcom

25 Persia,

now

30 Heavy

31 "Murder,

33 Popular

35 Cauldron

32 Prior

She -

26 Examined

demo

24 Pantheon

members

19 Fire

17"- Kleine

tion

15 1997

questionable and controversial judging that led to the fight being called a draw saved Holyfield's titles.

Holyfield, 37, said he was indeed disappointed by his performance, even if he was unwilling to admit that he should have lost. "I was disappointed he out-

jabbed me," Holyfield said. "I was disappointed I couldn't move around. I was disappointed I couldn't fight him inside," added Holyfield, who takes a 36-3-1 record into the

rematch. Holyfield has a history of turning in much improved performances when given a second chance at an opponent and he expects this rematch to be no

different "I ran the tape (of the first fight) over and over and over again to find out what I did wrong," Holyfield said. "After I found out what I did

wrong. I had to find out what to

16 Feed

bag

21 Pocket

22 Press

Turner

creature

horses

one?

28 Always

29 Lawn

34 Green-

house

Davis

38 Norway's

41 Stripe

45 Epoch

46 Rowing

31 Pre-

24 Folklore

23 Ms

morsel

do to overcome that. I've always been able to correct mistakes. I'm a winner and I can't put myself in the position of being a loser," he said.

"The difference in this fight is that I know what he's capable of doing," Holyfield continued. "I've fought guys who have my number, but fortitude has let me win. That's the situation now. This is a tough fight, but I'm used to winning tough fights.' Lewis, however, has had ac-

cess to the same tapes. "The second time around you can always be better. You can look at the tape and see things you can do, said the 34-year-old Briton from his Pocono Moun-

tain training camp "I look to finish it early. I don't get paid for overtime." added Lewis, who is hoping to take this one out of the hands of the judges, a mistake many feel he made in the first bout by not working harder to finish off

By Eugene Sheffer 20 Between 20 21 22 23 26 Graceful 27 Ten minus 38 |39 |40 45 46 47 sprinkles? Christmas purchase

Holyfield.

CRYPTOQUIP

OGPHVFX 35 Hockey KWRK RZUFK 37 Singer

HRFXUFI RFU RZZ URFI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE FORGETFUL

RAILROAD ENGINEER TENDS TO LOSE HIS TRAIN OF THOUGHT 44 Eccentric Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands

for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the 47 Cager's puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten plays a forehand against Marat Safin of Russia at the Paris