

### World Youth Cup All eyes on Brazil

AUCKLAND, Nov 9: Predictably, title-holders Brazil will start as favourites in the World Under-17 Soccer Championship begins in New Zealand Wednesday, reports AFP.

The new generation of Brazilians breezed through qualifying, scoring 17 goals in six matches but coach Carlos Cesar has warned his boys to be ready for a serious challenge from Ghana and Spain.

"We have to see them play first before we know who are the best players," he said after arriving in Christchurch at the weekend.

With Germany also in the favourites, the championship draws puts the likely top four in just two groups.

Brazil, Germany, Australia and Mali play in Group C, at Christchurch.

Ghana, Spain, Mexico and Thailand, are in Group B, playing their first round at the small seaside city of Napier.

New Zealand, the United States, Uruguay and Poland, are in Group A at Auckland. Group D, has Jamaica, Burkina Faso, Paraguay, and Qatar in Dunedin.

Opening the 32-match competition at Albany, north of here, New Zealand are expected to struggle against an in-form United States.

Riding a 20-match unbeaten streak, the Americans have three full-time professionals including Bayer Leverkusen forward Landon Donovan.

Praising a recent New Zealand 5-1 win over Thailand, US coach John Ellinger said: "This is a crucial game for us, right off the bat, and we are expecting a tight fought contest."

But the really big clash in the early rounds will be on Thursday when Ghana play Spain.

Winners in Ecuador in 1995 and Italy in 1991, the Ghanians were finalists against Brazil at Egypt in 1997.

Rated second-favourite by the bookmakers, Spain arrive following strong performance in Europe. Striker Fernando Torres has already played two games for Barcelona in the Champions League, and in a warm-up before leaving home the under-17s trounced Atletico Madrid 3-1.

Nothing that fellow group B Group team Mexico should not be discounted, Spanish coach Santesteban Troyano said he had a lot of respect for the African team.

"Ghana are a very good team with the most match experience in this challenge."

The under-17 tournament introduced the world to Brazilian sensation, Ronaldinho since beginning in 1985 the competition has also produced Argentina's Fernando Redondo, Emmanuel Petit of France, and Nigeria's Nwankwo Kanu.

### Maldini, Vieri to miss Belgium friendly

MILAN, Nov 9: Italy will be without Paolo Maldini and Christian Vieri for a friendly with Belgium next Saturday in Lecce but Udinese midfielder Thomas Locatelli earned a first call-up yesterday, reports Reuters.

AC Milan captain Maldini has been in pain with a reaction to a broken toe he suffered in the Italian Supercup in August and missed his team's league win over Venezia on Sunday.

Inter Milan striker Vieri was also out of action at the weekend as he finally rested a troublesome foot injury which has caused him problems for almost a month.

Experienced defender Alessandro Costacurta, who has also had injury troubles, is a third key member of the Italian side not included in the squad announced on Monday.

Lazio's Giuseppe Pancaro is expected to take Maldini's place at left back, while AS Roma striker Francesco Totti, who missed Italy's last game against Belarus in October through injury, is included in the squad and could well make the starting line-up.

The one new face in the 21-man squad announced by coach Dino Zoff is Udinese's 23-year-old midfielder Locatelli, who is rewarded for some excellent performances this season with a first appearance in the full squad.

Midfielders Massimo Ambrosini of AC Milan and Gianluca Zambrotta of Juventus, both members of Zoff's squad for the Belarus game, have been included in the Italian under-21 side who play a qualifier against France on Sunday.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Gianluigi Buffon (Parma), Francesco Toldo (Fiorentina)

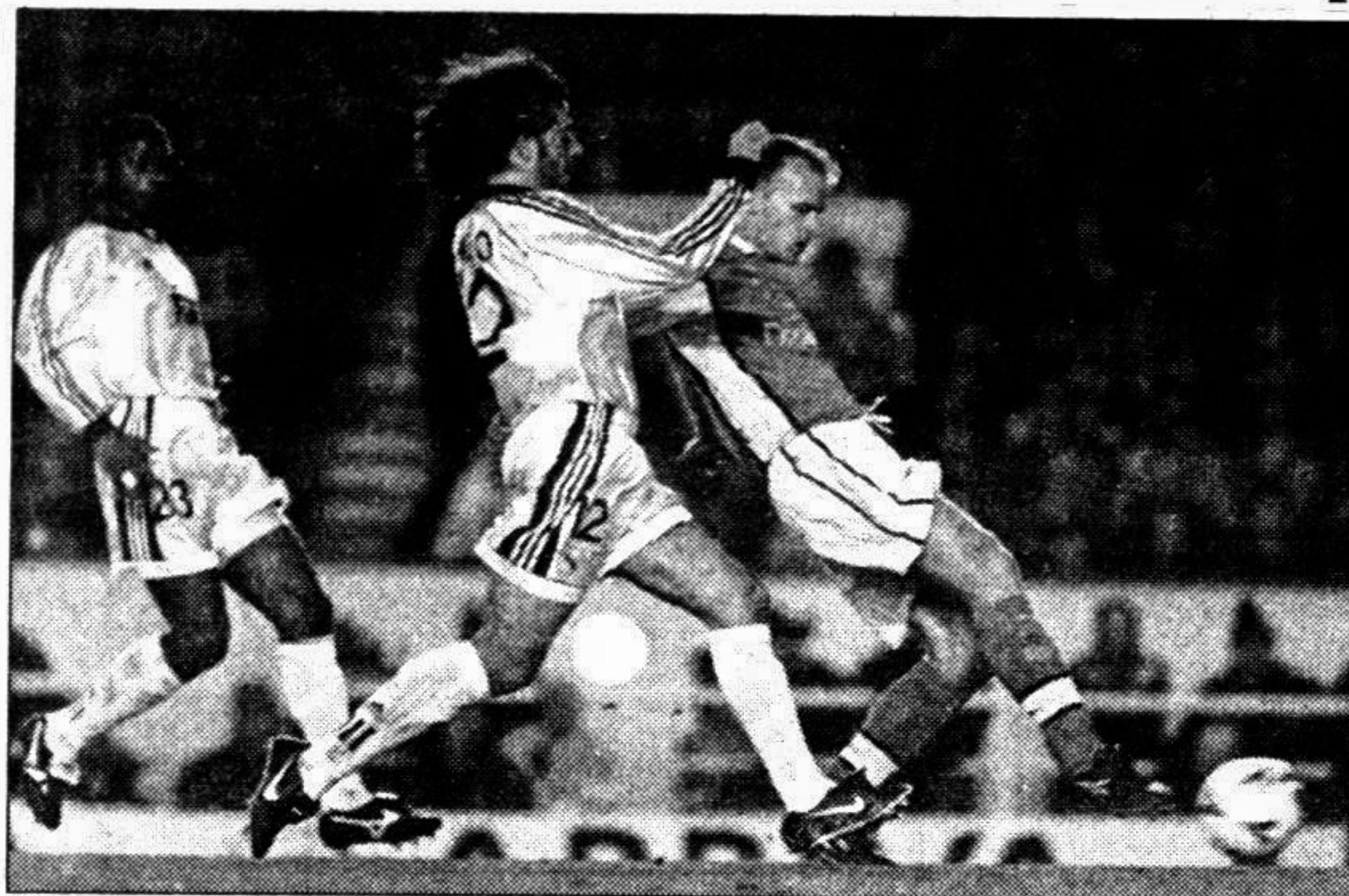
**Defenders:** Fabio Cannavaro (Parma), Ciro Ferrara (Juventus), Mark Lucretio (Juventus), Alessandro Nesta (Lazio), Giuseppe Pancaro (Lazio), Christian Panucci (Inter Milan)

**Midfielders:** Demetrio Albertini (AC Milan), Dino Baggio (Parma), Diego Fuser (Parma), Paolo Vanoli (Parma), Antonio Conte (Juventus), Gianluca Pesotto (Juventus), Eusebio di Francesco (Roma), Luigi Di Biaggio (Inter Milan), Thomas Locatelli (Udinese)

**Forwards:** Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus), Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus), Vincenzo Montella (AS Roma), Francesco Totti (AS Roma)

### IOC to honour Nebio

LONDON, Nov 9: Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, will present Primo Nebiolo's widow with a major award at a memorial service for the late IAAF president in Rome today, reports Reuters.



Arsenal's Dutch international Dennis Bergkamp (R) scores during the testimonial match against Real Madrid at Highbury on November 8.

### Friendly against Croatia

## Guivarc'h back in France fold

PARIS, Nov 9: France coach Roger Lemerre Monday recalled Auxerre striker Stephane Guivarc'h to the national squad as he unveiled his selection for Saturday's friendly match with Croatia at the Stade de France, reports AFP.

Guivarc'h, who hails from Brittany, has not played for the national team since the World Cup Final with Brazil at the same stadium in July 12.

That day was a mixed one for the forward who, like his teammates, has earned sporting immortality in France as a World Cup winner but had a nightmare individual performance, squandering three easy chances during the 3-0 win over Brazil before being substituted.

Guivarc'h said: "It gives me great pleasure to be back in the French team as it has been such a long time since the World Cup victory. It is the reward for work done over several months. What is important is to be back in the group although whether I am in the starting line-up depends on the coach."

Guivarc'h, who left Auxerre for English Premiership side Newcastle during France 98, had a nightmare 1998-9 season, falling out of favour with Newcastle's coach at the time, Ruud Gullit who replaced the

man who has signed Guivarc'h, Kenny Dalglish. He was promptly drummed out of Newcastle to Glasgow Rangers but failed to impress there under another Dutch coach Dick Advocaat and returned to Auxerre during the close-season.

Lemerre had admitted after the 3-2 win over Iceland that he secured France's qualification for the European Championships that he was contemplating stepping down, but now it looks as though World Cup winning coach Aime Jacquet's right-hand man will remain on board until Euro 2000 and with his senior players still on board.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Stephane Porato (Marseille), Ulrich Rame (Bordeaux)

**Defenders:** Laurent Blanc (Inter Milan/Ita), Marcel Desailly (Chelsea/Eng), Frank Leboeuf (Chelsea/Eng), Bixente Lizarazu (Bayern Munich/Ger), Lilian Thuram (Parma/Ita), Frederic Dehu (Barcelona/Spa), Vincent Cayola (Roma/Ita)

**Middlefielders:** Alain Boghossian (Parma/Ita), Didier Deschamps (Chelsea/Eng), Johan Micoud (Bordeaux), Patrick Vieira (Arsenal/Eng), Zinedine Zidane (Juventus/Ita), Youri Djorkaeff (Kaiserslautern/Ger)

**Forwards:** Lilian Laslandes (Bordeaux), Tony Vairelles (Lyon), Sylvain Wiltord (Bordeaux), Stephane Guivarc'h (Auxerre), Robert Pires (Marseille)

### Dixon testimonial

## Anelka misses Highbury return

LONDON, Nov 9: Nicolas Anelka may have stayed away but some 22,486 fans turned up at Highbury on Monday to pay tribute to loyal Arsenal defender Lee Dixon in his testimonial, reports AFP.

Real Madrid provided the opposition for 35-year-old Dixon's testimonial with Arsenal winning 3-1 but the Spanish giants were without the controversial French international striker who joined them from Arsenal this summer for 23 million pounds.

Anelka was reportedly missing through injury, but that did not spoil the occasion for Dixon, who can expect to earn 300,000 pounds from a match which Arsenal won comfortably thanks to goals from Patrick Vieira, Dennis Bergkamp and Stefan Malz.

Another man who looks to have benefited from the night is England coach Kevin Keegan, as winger Steve McManaman played for 61 minutes in a bid to prove his fitness ahead of the Euro 2000 play-off with Scotland.

McManaman had been out for nearly six weeks with a thigh injury, but he returned for Madrid in the Spanish league on Saturday, playing 67 minutes before being substituted by John Toshack.

The night, however, belonged to right-back Dixon. Since being signed from Stoke for 400,000 pounds by George Graham in January 1988 he has made 527 appearances for Arsenal and scored 22 goals.

Only four men - George Armstrong, David O'Leary, Tony Adams and Nigel Winterburn - have played more times for the Highbury club.

Dixon, capped 22 times by England, has amassed an impressive personal collection of honours.

**Kewell ruled out  
Soccer Australia  
wants action  
against Leeds**

SYDNEY, Nov 9: Australian football officials said Tuesday they had asked football's governing body FIFA to ban winger Harry Kewell from Leeds United's next English Premiership match, reports AFP.

Soccer Australia president Basil Scarsella said they would invoke a FIFA clause preventing Kewell from appearing against Bradford City on Nov 20.

"If Leeds want to play games then we can do the same," he said.

The Australians are furious after Leeds ruled Kewell out of their friendly international with Brazil on Sunday because of calf and ankle injuries.

Leeds had originally refused to release Kewell for either of the two friendlies against Brazil - the second on Wednesday week in Melbourne - but then agreed to release him for Sunday's clash.

Leeds said Kewell suffered a calf injury in Leeds' 3-0 UEFA Cup second round second leg victory in Moscow last Thursday.

However, he played a full 90 minutes in Monday's 2-0 defeat at Wimbledon.

Kewell's manager Bernie Macdonald said Leeds were trying to stop Kewell from playing for Australia altogether.

"I'd like nothing more than for him to walk away from the Socceross and Olympic team once and for all," he said.

Kewell's representatives said that Kewell had been "totally committed" to making the trip to Australia but would not be fit.

The statement said: "We can confirm that Harry was always totally committed to making the trip to Australia to play in the showpiece matches but has reluctantly had to accept that he is simply not fit to play in an international of this standard to the level to which he aspires as a professional."

"However he has asked us to absolutely underline his commitment to the Australian national team."

### Beating of Nivel German thugs await verdict

BERLIN, Nov 9: A German court was due today to hand down a verdict in the trial of four Germans accused of beating a French policeman almost to death during last year's soccer World Cup, reports Reuters.

Gendarme Daniel Nivel, 44, will sit opposite the four men on trial for his savage beating when the verdict is read out in a court in the western German city of Essen.

Nivel suffered serious brain damage in the attack when fans ran riot in the northern French town of Lens on June 21, 1998, the day of a match between Germany and Yugoslavia.

He still has difficulty moving and speaking, is blind in one eye and cannot remember what happened on the day.

"The pain will never go away. It will last our whole lives," Nivel's wife Laurette, who will also be in court for the verdict, said during the summer.

German newspapers published horrifying photographs showing Nivel being attacked. The pictures were later handed over to prosecutors to help build up a case against the assailants.

It's an absolute disgrace for our country, then German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said at the attack, reflecting widespread dismay in a country which has not had a bad record of soccer hooliganism in recent years.



Ronaldo signs autographs on arrival at Sydney International Airport yesterday.

### Ronaldo arrives Down Under

SYDNEY, Nov 9: Brazilian striker Ronaldo flew into Sydney on Tuesday, dispelling any doubts he would not play in a friendly football international with Australia on Sunday, reports AFP.

Ronaldo's Italian club Inter Milan had initially declined to release him, but finally agreed to allow him to play the first of the two internationals in Sydney, but not the match in Melbourne next Wednesday.

FIFA rules say a player may be released by his club for a maximum of six friendly matches.

Inter claimed Ronaldo had already been called up to play six times this year. However, Brazil only counted four selections - against Barcelona, twice against Argentina and once against Holland.

## Inter boss gives a piece of his mind

MILAN, Nov 9: Inter Milan president Massimo Moratti fired a broadside at his struggling team on Tuesday, telling them it time was they showed a bit of character and a taste for hard work, reports AFP.

Inter's fortunes have plummeted over the last month, with the club slipping from top to sixth place in the Serie A after taking just one point from their last four matches.

Inter's outburst was prompted by Sunday's humiliating 3-0 defeat to Bologna and his fear that Inter's wealth of individual skills on paper has made the team complacent on the pitch.

"Having big name players and showing your class may be enough to provide entertaining football, but it's not enough to win the championship," he said.

"Big names and classy football can lead to a false sense of security, one that you get from

always being surrounded by great players who can win a match by landing a single knockout blow.

"But the point is, everybody has to work hard to put one of those great players in the position where he can deliver that blow."

Disappointed by his team's performance at the weekend, Moratti said: "The players need an injection of self-confidence, but also of character. Because that is still the fundamental principle."

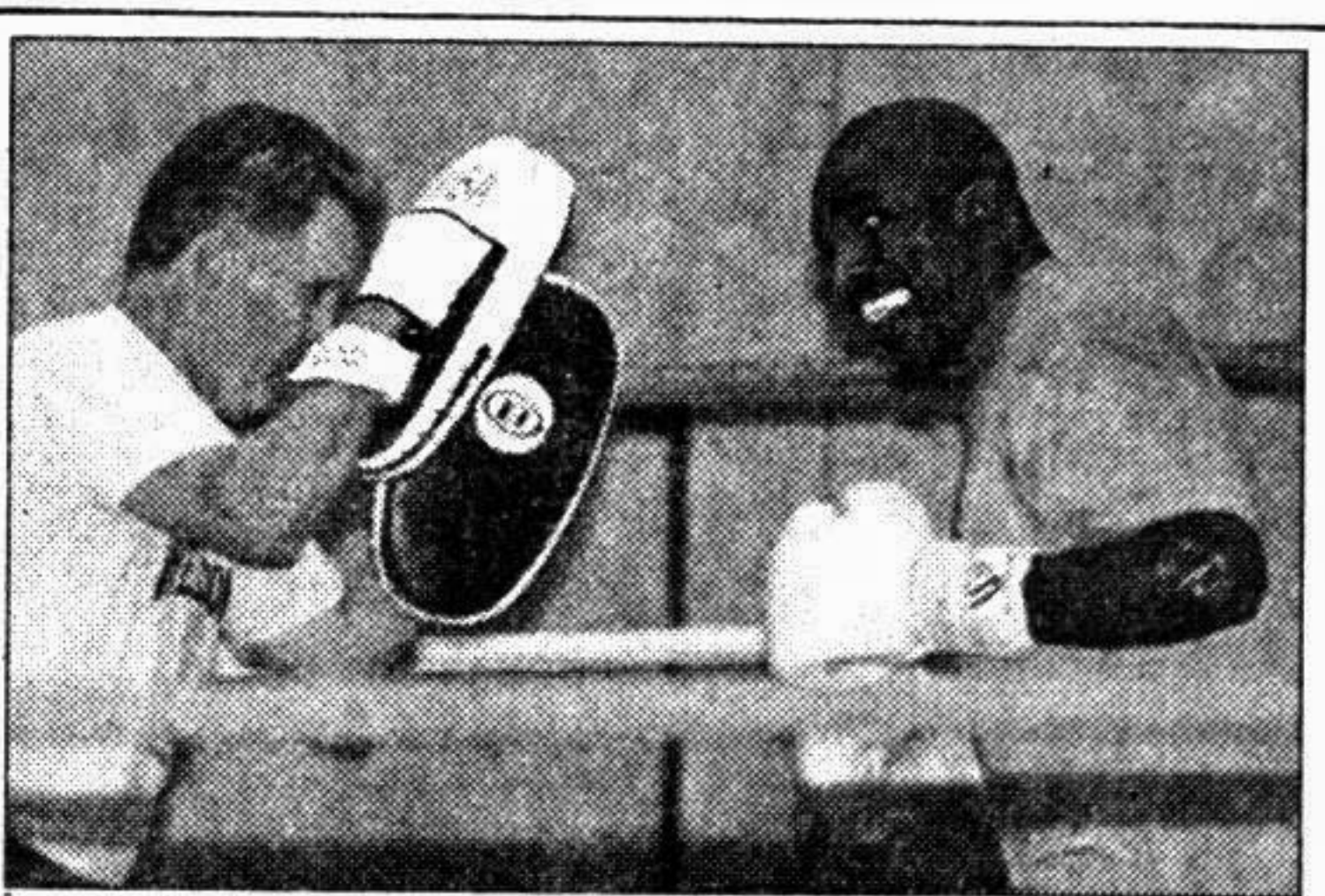
"You don't win anything on paper, just because you're talented, but because you work hard, try hard, indeed.

"Some of the players have perhaps been thinking a bit too much about us being favourites to win the championship. But credentials alone aren't enough."

"Now we need to find the physical effort and the heroism needed to win the title. And that self-belief and heroism won't come if people are complacent."

"We are up there with the rest of the other top clubs," he said. "We've dropped some points, and we've had more difficulties than expected away from home, which is something we'll have to work on."

"But apart from Lazio, the other clubs haven't really taken off yet. Obviously, though, from now on, we cannot allow ourselves to let that gap widen any further."



Heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield (R) spars with trainer Kenny Weldon at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel on November 8. Holyfield defends his belt against Britain's Lennox Lewis on November 13.

## Henman keeps hopes alive

STOCKHOLM, Nov 9: Tim Henman stayed alive for a possible place as an alternate for the season-ending World Championship, crushing Australian Stefan Koubek, 6-1, 6-3 in the first round of the 800,000-dollar Stockholm Open yesterday night, reports AFP.

The British number one saved three break points in the first set with aces as his form on the indoor carpet of the Kungliga Hall remained a step higher than that of his 22-year-old rival.

Henman needs to win the tournament in order to have a shot at an alternate place for Hanover.

But that is far from his mind in his final regular season event of the season.

"My goal this year was to make Hanover and I didn't," he said. "Being an alternate is not really something I'm thinking about."

"I didn't do as well as I wanted to at the end of the season. It's the end of the season now and my other goal would be to finish in the top 10."

Vinciguerra admitted the crowd urged him to a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 upset victory over eighth seed Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia.

"I couldn't have done it without them in the third set," said the world number 108, who lost in his debut here in the 1998 opening round. "It's taken me two years to get some confidence on the Tour."

For the first time in years, the field for the season finals has been decided before the last week of regular season play on the ATP Tour.

But injury dramas could still strike by the time the round-robin event starts a fortnight from Tuesday.

Both Pete Sampras and German Nicolas Kiefer are nursing injuries; both are among the elite eight players.

Sampras had to head back to the States last week from Paris after lasting but a single match against Clavet, winning it but then pulling out with his back injury from the tour to the US Open apparently still not 100 per cent.

Kiefer quit at mid-match two weeks ago in Stuttgart with a sprained ankle.

The problem was serious enough to keep the world number 6 German out of Paris last week and this week's other tournament in Moscow.

### BAF athletics

Six events in the Bangladesh Air Force inter-base athletic championships were decided yesterday on the second day of the championships at the BAF Base Zahurul Haque in Chittagong, says a press release.

The day's gold winners are: Cpl Moinul Haque of BAF Base Zahurul Haque in 200m sprint, Sgt Zaman of BAF Base Zahurul Haque in hammer throw, Cpl Siraj of BAF Base Paharkan-champur in Pole vault, Cpl Nazrul of BAF Base Zahurul Haque in 5000m run and Sgt Anwar of BAF Base Zahurul Haque in shot put. BAF Base Zahurul Haque won the 4x400m relay.

Earlier on Monday, the championships got under way

## Lazio poised for greatness?

ROME, Nov 9: Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson reckons his men are on course to become the best team in Europe after their stunning start to the season, reports AFP.

Lazio have played 16 matches so far: nine in the Serie A, six in the Champions League and one victory in the European Super Cup against Manchester United - and haven't lost any of them.

After hammering Verona 4-0 on Sunday they are now three points ahead of nearest rivals Juventus in the Serie A, and have limbered up for next month's tie with Chelsea with a convincing Champions League display.

Even Eriksson is surprised by his team's progress, saying: "I honestly didn't think we'd be this far in front of our rivals at this stage."

Verona coach Claudio Frandelli described Lazio as the best team in Europe, and with one eye on the next European Cup final, Eriksson said: "I hope I can say that at the end of May."

"Only then will it have any meaning," said the Swede.

"Certainly, when we play like this we are extremely good. But it will be hard to maintain this intensity all the way through - and it will be important to cope well with the times when we're in difficulty."

But he added: "If we can play like this for even an hour in every match, then we really will become the best team around."

Having the best midfield won the World Cup for France last year and Lazio have followed a similar route since the club added Juan Sebastian Veron and Diego Simeone last summer to fellow Argentinian Matias Almeyda, Czech Pavel Nedved and Portuguese winger Sergio Conceicao.

Of those, the key figure is undoubtedly Veron, an unflinching source of midfield energy who the Gazzetta dello Sport didn't hesitate on Monday to call "the man who will win the championship for Lazio."

A true all-rounder, Veron can score goals and set them up for Chilean Marcelo "El Matador" Salas with equal ease. The Argentinian bagged one - directly from a powerful inswinging corner kick - and made two others on Sunday, another demonstration of the skills which helped Parma win the UEFA/Italian Cup double last season.

Playing down the feat, Veron said: "I hit the ball wrong on the first corner. I brought the ball in too tight and it hit the post and went in. I got it right though

the second time - and Marcelo headed it in."

Veron reckons that Lazio's most dangerous opponents are not the other teams but themselves.

"The problem we have sometimes is a mental one, our approach to the game," he said. "But as for the way we play, I think everything is fine."

And he dismissed the early season euphoria which surrounded rivals Inter Milan, after Christian Vieri left Lazio for 50 million dollars to team up with Ronaldo in a supposed "Dream Team" attack.

"People were a bit too quick to talk about them being a great team, and perhaps they're not one after all," he said. "You don't make a great team with just two players."

Another explanation for Lazio's success came from Sinisa Mihajlovic, who watched the team dominate the second half of last season only to lose the championship to AC Milan in the closing weeks.

"We mustn't think about how many points in front we may or may not be," said the Yugoslav defender. "We just have to play with the same determination we showed against Verona."

"Last season, those were just the kind of matches we didn't manage to win, and in the end we got overtaken. But now, we've improved."

## Matthaeus feeling USA

COLOGNE, Germany, Nov 9: German World Cup hero and Bayern Munich veteran Lothar Matthaeus has used the last few days to search for an apartment in New York before moving to the Big Apple permanently next year to begin the end of his football career, reports AFP.

Matthaeus was rested for Saturday's Bundesliga game at SSV Ulm and took the opportunity to check out his new club, the New York/New Jersey Metrostars, and its environs first hand.

The buildings, equipment and pitches are okay. We should be able to prepare for matches quite well here. Of course it's quite different to Munich but I got pretty spoiled there," Matthaeus said after looking around Keen University where the Metrostars train.

Club manager Charlie Stillitano can't wait to have Matthaeus on board for the new Major League Soccer season with club training starting on February 1st. The Metrostars are in crisis after finishing the current season bottom and sacking coach Bora Milutinovic a few days ago.

Now Matthaeus is not just looked on as player figurehead he is also being drafted in to help find a replacement - evidence that, despite his 38 years, the Bavarian champion is still venerated as a force to be reckoned with.

Stillitano want him to be the fulcrum around which a new team will be formed. Bayern too

far from the comfort of Germany and the Bundesliga.

"I have signed a contract and that counts for me," Matthaeus insists. "Until the next millennium though all that counts is Bayern. After that I can organise things in peace and quiet."

He wants to experience life in a country with a different outlook, a different language and where he is just one among many so-called "stars". He plans to expand personal horizons which for his entire adult life have revolved solely around football and its peripheral attachments.

That will mean visits to Manhattan museums and galleries. Broadway musicals and other cultural high points - guided by 22-year-old girlfriend Marlen Muller-Wohlfahrt, an art history student and daughter of Bayern's renowned physician Dr. Hans-Wilhelm.

Despite his big move, reminiscent of his mentor Franz Beckenbauer who also spent his final years playing for Cosmos New York in the fashionable US, Matthaeus still has one last sporting goal - playing for Germany at next year's European championships in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Coach Erich Ribbeck has already said he is counting on Matthaeus and has complete confidence he will stay fit and hungry away from the rigours of the European game.



LOTHAR MATTHAEUS

would like to keep him - at least until season's end. President Franz Beckenbauer, manager Uli Hoessgen and coach Ottmar Hitzfeld have all tried to sway him but Matthaeus insists he wants to end his playing career

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Gimbel's van- quisher? 38 Zingers 5 Big fuss 8 Faux pas 12 Anise- flavored liqueur 13 Adversary 14 Mexican entree 15 Represent 17 Belligerent 18 Anderson's "high-" 19 Edge 20 Maestro 21 Kostel- anetz 21 Kennedy G's 22 Accom- plished base 26 Renu's twin 30 La Scala number 31 Some people dispense with it 32 100 centavos 33 Rubi- cundity 35 Lieu 36 "How - love thee?"  
37 Great 50 or 51 39 Across? 40 "No seats" sign 42 Grads-tile (abbr.) 45 Vaca- tioning 46 Refuse to accept change 48 Barber-shop 49 Squirrel's request 50 Shake- speare villain 51 Stevenson villain 52 Tourna- ment situation 53 Expanded  
DOWN  
21 At least 2 Car 3 Nicholas, e.g. 4 Thinner 5 Attach 6 Consign to 7 "the fields we go" 8 Cantor 9 Fat 10 Bakery employee 11 Engage in vowing 16 Low cart 20 Intention villain 21 1986 Stephen King- based movie  
Solution time: 21 mins.  
CPTI EAR JOBS  
ZINC THE OHIO  
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RADIOUI BEAN  
FRIGID UMGER  
DISTS TURB FARIGO  
ATOM YOM RIOT  
REIMAP POSSISTS  
EMERGE NOR  
HIGH TAXI WALTZ  
MAGI POP LIRA  
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Yesterday's answer

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CRYPTOQUIP  
X Y F D E Q K Q J E Q W  
K P J Q W E V X W N V C X D E A H  
E V A A J N V C J E P Z V Y E J  
"H F P W X Y Z P V E!"  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I USED TO KNOW A BAKER WHO REFERRED TO HIS BUILDING AS A FLOUR GARDEN.  
Today's Cryptoquip clue: J equals S  
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.