

## Sanz feels the heat

MADRID, Dec 5 (Reuters) - The aftermath of Real Madrid's humiliating 5-1 home defeat by Real Zaragoza, their worst in 25 years, has led to suggestions that the club presidency may be taking its toll on Lorenzo Sanz.

Sanz left the presidential box shortly after halftime on Saturday after being subjected to a torrent of abuse from fans.

It was later revealed that doctors had diagnosed Sanz as suffering symptoms of a stomach ulcer, an obvious sign of stress, and had advised him to rest for the next few days.

The Spanish daily *As* reported on Sunday that Sanz's confidantes were advising him to give up the presidency for health reasons.

Despite good results for the club in the Champions League, the 56-year-old president has been under constant pressure all season as Real, currently 14th in the table, have won only three out of 14 league games.

An outlay of \$78m on new players in the close season, including the \$23m club-record signing of Nicolas Anelka, has brought the club scant reward.

The situation was exacerbated in November when Sanz dismissed coach John Toshack and his subsequent appointment of Vicente del Bosque as caretaker coach has made no impact on the team's dismal form.

Sanz became club president in 1995 after financial scandals ended the reign of Ramon Mendoza and he has since acquired a reputation as ambitious and ruthless.

His major achievement has been to guide the club to Champions League triumph in 1998 but even then Sanz demonstrated a merciless streak when only days later he fired German coach Jupp Heynckes, one of seven managerial casualties during his tenure.

Financial strain too has accompanied Sanz throughout his presidency of a club whose annual turnover of \$115.5m makes them the second richest in the world but which does not disguise the magnitude of the club's debts.

Sanz has managed to restructure these debts and has also recovered the club's marketing rights, negotiated new sponsorship deals, increased merchandising and launched the club's own TV digital channel.

However his achievements have been somewhat undermined by allegations of financial impropriety which have been levelled at Sanz's close ally, vice-president Juan Onieva.

Should Sanz be forced to resign, he would relinquish his role of president of the G-14 group of Europe's richest clubs where he has been instrumental in putting pressure on UEFA for increased revenues from European fixtures.

## Primera Liga

# Zaragoza abase Real



MADRID, Dec 5: Troubled Real Madrid suffered their worst home defeat in 25 years when they were crushed 5-1 by Real Zaragoza on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Real, who have not won at home in the Spanish league since August and sacked manager John Toshack last month, had not conceded a goal at home since February 1974 when a Johan Cruyff-led Barcelona thrashed them 5-0.

This defeat was a great effort to every Madrid supporter," said Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque who only took over at the helm after John Toshack was sacked just over two weeks ago.

"We did not play like a team and the defence collectively had serious problems. We have to forget personal issues and play like a team," he added.

However, he denied that he was contemplating resigning, despite two defeats and a draw in his first three league games and the fact that his is only an interim appointment until the end of the season.

Del Bosque insisted: "I'm not going to throw in the towel. I have the courage and enough character to weather this storm and intend to get over this situation."

The rout started on 29 minutes when Ivo Milosevic found

## McEnroe, Leconte reach final

LONDON, Dec 5: John McEnroe and Henri Leconte reached the finals of the ATP Tour Senior Honda Challenge with victories in Saturday semifinals, reports AP.

McEnroe, who is defending his title, defeated England's Jeremy Bates 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), 10-4 with McEnroe taking the match in the 10-point tiebreaker used in seniors tennis 10-4.

Leconte defeated American Jimmy Connors 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) to set up the Sunday match with McEnroe. The two share the season lead in points on the senior tour.

On Friday, Connors was beaten by McEnroe 6-1, 6-0 in their first match in Britain since McEnroe thrashed Connors in the 1984 Wimbledon final.

McEnroe was leading 5-4 on Saturday and serving for the match when he was broken by Bates with the Englishman taking the second-set tiebreaker.

In the champions tiebreaker — played instead of a third set — McEnroe raced ahead 7-1 before closing out Bates 10-4. "There was a lot of pressure in the tiebreak, I expected something special, and that's what I got," Bates said.

"I feel like it ended prematurely," McEnroe said. "I feel like we should still be out there playing the third set."

himself unmarked and headed past the helpless Albano in the Madrid goal.

Juanito Castano added two more goals before halftime as Real Madrid left huge gaps in defense.

Raul Gonzalez raised hopes of a Real Madrid fightback when his shot from the edge of the area was mishandled by Zaragoza goalkeeper Juanma Garcia and spun into the net after 53 minutes.

However, that was to prove the only piece of luck for Real Madrid.

Ander Garitano added his name to the list of Real Zaragoza scorers just a minute later when Ivan Helguera failed to cover back properly.

Milosevic scored Zaragoza's fifth after 68 minutes, with Helguera again at fault. It was the Yugoslav striker's 15th goal of the season and made him the Spanish First Division's most prolific marksman.

Real Madrid actually had slightly more possession than Zaragoza but their porous defense let them down badly and Zaragoza had 21 shots at goal compared with Madrid's 11.

Real Zaragoza stayed third in the table with 25 points from 14 games. They are two points behind Galician clubs Deportivo and Celta Vigo, who

have 27 points and play today. Real Madrid are 13th.

Barcelona finally broke their four-game losing streak with a 3-2 home win over struggling Oviedo.

The Catalan club had the game well under their control with three goals in the first 27 minutes, the first two coming from midfielder Philip Cocu and third from fellow Dutchman Patrick Kluivert, who scored after connecting with a Luis Figo cross.

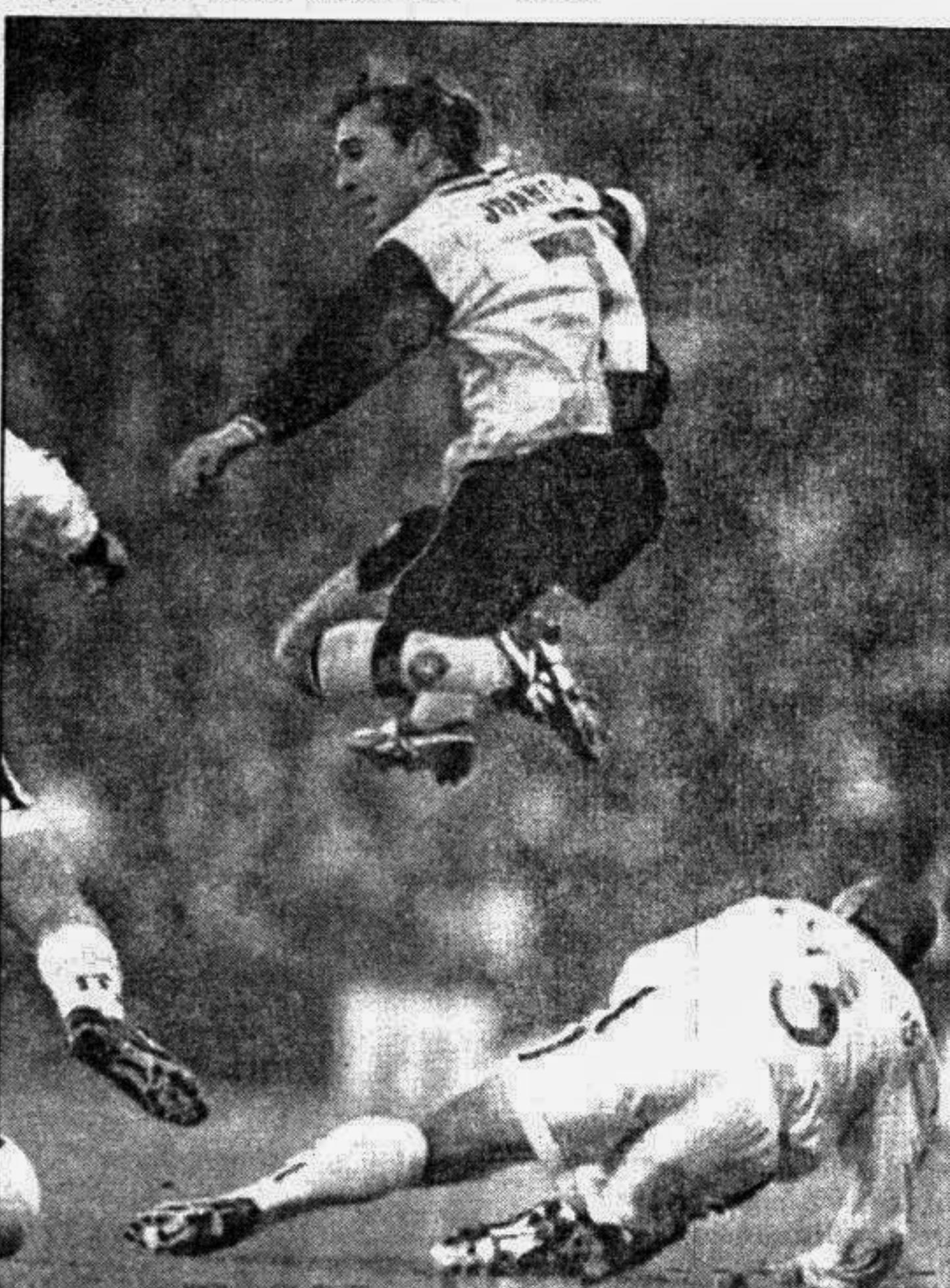
However, Barcelona relaxed in the second half and allowed Oviedo to creep back with late goals from Roberto Losada and Juan Gonzalez.

Points were evenly split in the bitterly fought Basque derby between Athletic Bilbao and Real Sociedad, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Athletic Bilbao may claim to be moral victors, though, after two goals by Jose Maria Lacruz were disallowed because of marginal handballs by his team mates.

Sevilla remained bottom of the table, still with only one win all season after losing 2-0 at Valencia.

Valencia dominated throughout and Juan Sanchez and Claudio Lopez scored their goals.



Juan Castano (top) of Real Zaragoza jumps to evade a sliding tackle from Real Madrid's Brazilian superstar Roberto Carlos at Madrid on December 4. — AFP photo

## Paes retains ATP challenger title

LUCKNOW, Dec 5: India's tennis ace Leander Paes, aiming to improve his singles rankings, was made to fight by Jaime Delgado before he beat the Briton in a close encounter to clinch the ATP challenger title here yesterday, reports PTI.

Paes came out unscathed 7-6 (7-6) 7-6 (7-5) to retain the title he won last year, but with a new ranking system coming up from the dawn of year 2000, points earned here hardly mean anything.

The Indian was not his usual self yesterday as both the sets went into the tiebreaker, but kept his cool, winning vital points to emerge winner.

Delgado, who on Friday disposed of top seed Pradorn Srichaphan of Thailand, exhibited some excellent backhand passing winners but failed to sustain the momentum and faltered at crucial points.

A serve and volleyer, Paes was hampered by the Briton's style of play as he pinned the Indian to the baseline and did not allow him too much of a room.

Down with a mini-break in the second set tie-break, Paes blasted an ace on his second serve and from then on there was no looking back.

"I had to fight my way back, but it is satisfying to win when you are not playing your best tennis," a beaming Paes said. The Indian now heads for the Jaipur Challenger.

Srichaphan had the consolation of winning the doubles title when he and Dane Kristian Pless defeated the British pair of Martin Lee and Delgado 5-7, 6-3, 7-5 in the final.

Abera's

FUKUOKA, Japan, Dec 5: Gezenga Abera of Ethiopia defeated Mohammed Ouaadi of France in a shoulder-to-shoulder battle to win the Fukuoka marathon today, reports AFP.

Abera and Ouaadi battled for the lead in the last four kilometres and came back almost in line to the Heiwadai stadium, from where the Ethiopian runner narrowly took the lead and held on to a 10-metre victory.

Abera clocked two hours seven minutes 54 seconds, breaking his personal best of 2:13:59.

Ouaadi came in second in 2:07:55, also breaking his personal best of 2:09:17 he set in the Paris marathon in April this year.

He became the first French runner to finish in the top 10 here.

Third place went to Vanderlei Lima of Brazil, who was left behind Abera and Ouaadi after the 36km mark to finish in 2:08:40.

Everything went against



Mark Woodforde (R) and Todd Woodforde congratulate each other after clinching victory in their Davis Cup doubles match. — AFP photo

## Aussies owe Woodies one

NICE, France, Dec 5: Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge scored a remarkable comeback doubles

win on Saturday that left Australia on the brink of their first Davis Cup title for 13 years, reports AFP.

Woodforde and Woodbridge rallied to defeat Fabrice Santoro and Olivier Delaître 2-6, 5-6, 6-2, 6-2 to steer Australia into a 2-1 lead going into today's reverse singles.

The winners of the doubles in each of the last 21 Davis Cup finals have gone on to win the title.

The reverse singles will pit Australia's Mark Philippoussis against Cedric Pioline and teenager Lleyton Hewitt against Sébastien Grosjean on the red clay at the Acropolis Exhibition Centre — with the Australians needing to win only one to take the Cup for the 27th time.

"It's not over until it's over. If you have your man on the ropes, you have to kick him right through them," said Australian captain John Newcombe, confirming his team's uncompromising approach.

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Third place went to Vanderlei Lima of Brazil, who was left behind Abera and Ouaadi after the 36km mark to finish in 2:08:40.

Everything went against

them at the beginning. The French were playing extremely well and the Woodies had to call on all of their courage and fight to come back," said Newcombe. "I didn't know how they were going to do it because things were going so bad."

Newcombe said before the final that he believes it is his team's destiny to win the Cup.

From the moment that left-hander Woodforde dropped his serve in the opening game, the Australians were fighting an uphill battle in front of a fiercely patriotic 10,000 crowd.

"It was so loud we couldn't hear each other," said Woodbridge, whose serve was broken twice as the French wrapped up the first set in 38min.

The Woodies won 16 of the last 20 games after the amazing form reversal, which left the French perplexed.

"There were two matches in one match," said Santoro. "The second match started when the Australians began to believe in themselves."

French coach Guy Forget said his team now faces a tough task on Sunday.

"If we had won today then we had a serious chance to win the Cup," he said. "Now it is different."

Their win saw Woodforde and Woodbridge make amends for their defeat in Australia's 1993 Davis Cup final loss to Germany, when they lost in four sets to Michael Stich and Patrik Kuhnen.

The pair have won nine Grand Slam titles and shared Olympic gold medals but are hoping for their first Davis Cup title.

They had lost both of their previous meetings with Santoro and Delaître but now have a 4-2 Davis Cup doubles record and are unbeaten as a pair in Cup play for over five years.

## DD INTL

9:30 Opening & News in English 9:45 Business Plus 10:00 Mirc Masala (Film Magazine) 10:30 India This Week (Reporting) 11:00 Light Music 11:15 Cultural Prog 11:45 TBA 12:15 Bharat Samachar (News in Hindi) 12:30 TBA 1:00 Hindi Film 10:00 Hindi Film (Rpt)

## CARTOON NETWORK

5:30 World Famous Toons 6:30 The Real Adventures of Jonny 7:00 Tom & Jerry Kids 8:30 Perils of Penelope 9:00 Josie & Pussycat D 9:30 Drink the Little 10:00 Flintstone Kids 10:30 Richie Rich 11:00 Top Cat 11:30 Captain Planet 12:00 Scooby Doo 12:30 The Cartoon Grand 1:30 Fantastic Max 2:00 Crocado 2:30 The New Scooby Doo Movies 3:30 Sky Commanders 4:00 Centurions 4:30 Swats 5:30 Ninja Robots 5:30 Flintstones 6:00 Top & Jerry Kids 6:30 Crocado 7:00 The Mask 7:30 Dexters Laboratory 7:45 Whats a Cartoon! Show 8:00 The Addams Family 8:30 Scooby Doo Where Are You 9:00 The Popeye Show

## ALPHA TV

6:00 Moner Moto Gaan 6:30 Alaap 7:00 Kee Darun Dreshow 7:30 Monihaar 8:00 Gandharbi 8:30 Antarayee 9:00 Zee Jalsa 9:30 Bangla Movie- Harano Sur (\*Uttom Kumar, Suchitra Sen) 12:00 Moner Moto Gaan 12:30 Chalo Chitra Chomotak 1:00 Bharat Bhrman 1:30 Griho Sajja 2:00 Bahari Ahaar 2:30 Bangla Movie- Dilip Kumar Special - Anokha Pyar (\*Nargis) 1:45 Making of A Legend 2:15 Film Show- Duniya

## DD-1 (NATIONAL CHANNEL)

### 5:55 Vande Mataram & Thought Of The Day 6:00

Serial: Aradhana 6:30

For The Universities 7:00

Daily Sope: Angan Ep-31

11:30 Raahat 12:00

Nirma-Hum Paanch

12:30 Indian Cricket 8

Millennium 1:00 Hip Hip

Hueyka 1:30 Tejaswini (Renuka Sahani)/Naya

Zamana 2:00 Tez News

2:30 Ze Araha: Anhona (Horror Show) 3:00 Fea-

gular Film : Smugler

Ardhangini 12:30 Serial:

Kamyaba 1:00 Serial:

Tulsi 1:30 Serial: Intezar