

England's retaliation

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Flower's brother, Zimbabwean captain Andy, for eight.

Stuart Carlisle scored two before becoming Ealham's third victim in the 27th over, followed two balls later by Guy Whittall for a duck.

Murray Goodwin (15) etched his name into the record books in dubious fashion in the 29th over when he became Ealham's fifth lbw victim.

With fellow medium pacer Mark Alleyne removing Alistair Campbell for 28 in the 20th over, Zimbabwe lost six wickets for 27 runs in 9.5 overs.

John Rennie, who made 23, and Heath Streak, who topped scored with 35 not out, then shared an eighth-wicket stand of 62 to spare some of Zimbabwe's blushes.

An opening partnership of 128 -- the highest for any wicket in limited overs matches between England and Zimbabwe -- between captain Nasser Hussain and Nick Knight all but wrapped up the England's win.

Hussain's 64 came off 77 balls with seven fours and two sixes, with Knight facing 94 deliveries and hitting eight fours in his undefeated 72.

Zimbabwe had injury added to insult when wicketkeeper Andy Flower left the field at the end of the 11th over with a dislocated finger.

Alistair Campbell took over behind the stumps, but Flower returned to field in the outfield and he will be fit for Zimbabwe's match against South Africa in Durban on Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the triangular-series one-day international between England and Zimbabwe at the Diamond Oval on Sunday:

ZIMBABWE					
Johnson c Hussain b Caddick	11				
G Flower lbw b Ealham	28				
Campbell c Solanki b Alleyne	28				
Goodwin lbw b Ealham	15				
A Flower lbw b Ealham	8				
Carlisle lbw b Ealham	0				
G Whittall lbw b Ealham	35				
Streak not out	23				
Rennie c Hussain b Gough	0				
Olonga b Gough	11				
Extras (lb-4, nb-1, w-6)	11				
Total (for 9 wickets in 50 overs)	161				
Fall of wickets: 1-15; 2-71; 3-73; 4-92; 5-96; 6-97; 7-98; 8-160; 9-161.					

Did not bat: Andrew Whittall

	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gough	10	2	31	2	
Caddick	10	2	21	1	
Wh	10	1	44	0	
Alleyne	10	0	46	1	
Ealham	10	3	15	5	

	England	Zimbabwe
Rennie b Olunga	64	
Knight not out	72	
Hick b Streak	2	
Solanki not out	16	
Extras (fb-4, lb-1, nb-1, w-2)	8	
Total (for 2 wickets in 31.1 overs)	162	

Fall of wickets: 1-128; 2-140.

Did not bat: Darren Maddy, Mark Alleyne, Craig White.

Mark Ealham, Chris Read, Darren Gough, Andrew Caddick.

	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Olonga	8	0	52	1	
Rennie	7	0	27	0	
Streak	7.1	0	26	1	
A Whittall	4	1	25	0	
G Whittall	5	0	27	0	

Result: England won by eight wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Mark Ealham.

Belgian "Golden Boot" Staelens'

OSTENDE, Belgium, Jan 31: Belgian international Lorenzo Staelens on Wednesday received the Belgian "Golden Boot" award for being the most outstanding player in the Belgian league for 1999, reports AFP.

Captain of the Belgian team, Staelens has 63 caps for the national side, but this was his first time receiving his country's highest footballing award.

The 35-year-old defender, who plays for first division side Anderlecht, was voted the top player for 1999 in a poll organised by the daily Het Laatste Nieuws newspaper among coaches, journalists and sporting personalities.

He came in ahead of teammate and Czech striker Jan Koller, and Belgian forward Toni Brogno, who plays for first division side Westerlo.

Anelka's home caught fire

MADRID, Jan 31: (AFP) Struggling Real Madrid striker Nicolas Anelka's troubles continued when fire broke out in his luxury home leading to a confrontation with journalists, the French international's brother Didier revealed on Friday.

The blaze started when the boiler caught fire in the garage causing minimal damage at the Anelka home in the Madrid suburb of La Moraleja.

While filming the incident an altercation broke out between two journalists and the Anelka brothers leaving the reporter and the cameraman nursing minor injuries and damaged equipment.

The journalists have taken legal action claiming assault, damage and theft.

Firemen soon had the fire under control, however, the television crew from Antena 3 were not far behind.

"I didn't know the extent of the damage and these two journalists came into our home uninvited and started filming," Didier told AFP.

"I lost my temper and demanded they leave which they did. Once outside they found a suitable spot and resumed filming," he added.

The two men, Juan Jose Dominguez and Jose Angel Sanchez had their own version of events, claiming Nicolas Anelka came out of the house fuming and demanded the film.

A scuffle followed and Anelka fell suffering minor injuries to his wrist and nose.



Inter Milan's Roberto Baggio is euphoric after scoring against Roma in Serie A on January 30. —Internet photo

Serie A

Baggio does it again



ROME, Jan 31: Roberto Baggio revived Inter Milan's title challenge by scoring a superb winner in the 2-1 victory over AS Roma at the San Siro on Sunday, reports Reuters.

The result leapfrogged Inter into third spot, ahead of Roma and neighbours AC Milan on goal difference and five behind leaders Juventus who were held 1-1 at home by lowly Cagliari.

Second-placed Lazio shrugged off their indifferent start to the new Year, which saw them pick up just five points from four matches, to cut Juve's lead at the top to a single point with a 3-1 home win over Bari.

Ukrainian Andrei Shevchenko scored a hat-trick in seven minutes midway through the second half as Milan won 3-0 at Perugia. It was the former Dynamo Kiev striker's second hat-trick of the season and left him top scorer in Serie A with 14 goals.

Parma slipped to their second successive defeat, losing 1-0 at Bologna to Giovanni Bia's 48th minute goal against his old club. It was their first defeat at Bologna in 13 years.

Torino scored two injury-time goals to earn a 2-2 draw at

Venezia while Fiorentina defeated Reggina with a 50th minute winner from Argentine Gabriel Batistuta.

Baggio, who turned down the chance to leave Inter over the Christmas break and scored his first goal of the season only last week, took just eight minutes to show his class.

He split Roma's defence with a pass that ran through Damiano Tommasi's legs into the path of Christian Vieri who deftly flicked the ball over the advancing Francesco Antonioli for his ninth of the season.

Eusebio Di Francesco squandered an excellent opening and Angelo Peruzzi saved from Tommasi before Roma's veteran Brazilian defender Al-dair equalised in the 33rd minute. He outjumped Laurent Blanc to head powerfully into the roof of the net.

But nine minutes later Baggio settled the match with his third goal in three matches.

When Antonioli saved at point-blank range from Francesco Moriero the rebound looked beyond Baggio's reach but without hesitation he hooked the ball over his shoulder, over Cafu's head and into the unguarded net.

Francesco Totti was unlucky not to salvage a point for Roma in the 80th minute when his

shot hit the post and was cleared by Dario Simic.

After several penalty appeals had been turned down in recent matches even the usually reserved coach Sven Goren Eriksson wondered aloud what it would take for Lazio to earn a spot kick.

The Swede was given his answer after just 45 seconds at the Olympic Stadium.

Marcelo Salas was fouled in Lazio's first attack and Sinisa Mihajlovic converted Lazio's first goal in three matches.

Chilean Salas, playing his first match for four weeks, added Lazio's second in the 39th minute, shooting into an open goal after Francesco Mancini had parried Fabrizio Ravanello's finish.

Bari briefly threatened a comeback with Gionatha Spinesi's 42nd minute header but Pavel Nedved immediately restored Lazio's two-goal lead to put his side's title challenge back on track.

Like Lazio, Juve made the perfect start with a first minute goal from Filippo Inzaghi.

But the Turin side failed to capitalise and had only themselves to blame when the best defence in the league allowed Giovanni Sulcis a free header for a 13th minute equaliser.



Malaga's Edgar Carvalho (L) is under pressure from Juan Merino of Real Betis during their Primera Liga clash in Seville on January 30. —Internet photo

Primera Liga

Valladolid floor leaders



BARCELONA, Jan 31 (Reuters/Internet): A second-half hat-trick by Valladolid striker Victor Fernandez Deportivo Coruna tumbling to an embarrassing 4-1 defeat on Sunday.

Victory took advantage of some appalling defending to make it four defeats in six matches for Javier Irureta's faltering side, who have seen their eight-point lead at the top of the table cut to two.

Real Zaragoza climbed to second on the back of their 2-1 win at home to Sevilla. Barcelona trail them on goal difference after their 1-1 draw at city rivals Espanyol on Saturday.

Real Madrid also continued their revival with an impressive 3-1 win at home to Athletic Bilbao.

Real, with goals from Jose Maria Gutierrez, Fernando Morientes and Raul Gonzalez,

outclassed their Basque visitors to reignite hopes of a championship challenge from Vicente del Bosque's side.

Real moved up to fifth in the table, still seven points behind the leaders but with a game in hand.

Valladolid, with Japanese international Shoji Jo in the starting line-up for the first time, made a confident start against the leaders, pushing forward in numbers at every opportunity.

Jo's busy presence set up the opening goal on 20 minutes as his shot from inside the area was only half cleared, allowing Jose Luis Caminero to follow up and turn past Deportivo goalkeeper Jacques Song'o.

Jo missed a chance to make it 2-0 early in the second half, heading well wide from Caminero's cross, at the second, as Deportivo continued to leave gaping holes in their defence.

Victor, picking up a long ball through the centre, headed his marker before producing a brilliant lob to beat Song'o.

for Valladolid, completing his hat-trick by turning in a cross at the near post in the 89th minute.

"They were a lot better than us," Deportivo coach Javier Irureta admitted after the game.

"We weren't in the game in the first half and by the time we reacted it was too late."



Two Brazilian fans cheering on the players against Colombia. —AFP photo

Rome mayor concerned about Lazio fans

ROME, Jan 31 (Reuters/Internet): The mayor of Rome called for police action against extremist Lazio fans after they displayed a portrait of Benito Mussolini and a banner paying tribute to Serb warlord Arkan at Sunday's game against Bari.

Fans in the Curva Nord section of the ground unfurled a picture of former fascist dictator Mussolini as well as a banner declaring "Honour to the tiger Arkan" during Lazio's 3-1 win.

Arkan is the nickname of Zeljko Raznatovic, the former Serbian paramilitary leader, indicted for war crimes committed in Bosnia and Croatia, who was shot dead in a Belgrade hotel earlier this month.

Celtic crosses and swastikas have been regularly displayed at Lazio matches in recent months and Rutelli said the behaviour of the fans had now become an issue for the police.

"I am for freedom of expression up until the point where it crosses the penal code and the law," said mayor Francesco Rutelli. "The problem is now one for the police who need to make an immediate intervention."

Inciting racism and displays of support for fascism are outlawed in Italy.

On Friday AS Roma president Franco Sensi called for games at Rome's Olympic stadium to be halted whenever fascist symbols were displayed but Rutelli said such a move would play into the hands of the extremists.

"The interventions need to be before and after (the game) — suspending the match would draw attention to the issue and that is exactly what they want," he said.

Blatter for one month break

PARIS, Jan 31: FIFA President Sepp Blatter has called for a worldwide annual soccer break in December, reports Reuters.

"It is vital that soccer should stop for a month," Blatter said on Sunday.

Speaking on French television, the FIFA chief said the sport's world governing body would present its plan in March for a new, harmonised soccer calendar which could take effect from 2004.

The plan, which has been in the works for over a year, would be called "Big Bang," said Blatter's closest aide, former France captain Michel Platini.

Platini confirmed the plan would include a break for all soccer players worldwide in December while January would be devoted to preparation.

Club soccer would stop between June 15 and July 15 to allow national team competitions to take place.

Blatter also said that while there were no plans to change the rules in the near future, he suggested using more linesmen to help referees decide if a goal was valid or not.

He said there was a need to improve refereeing "for referees will safeguard the game into the next century."

"We could use linesmen like in tennis to check the goal lines and decide if a goal is in or out," added Blatter, who said he was against using video to assist referees.

The FIFA chief also repeated his support for African bids to stage the 2006 World Cup.

"We needed more solidarity and if one of the bids gives all guarantees, it is only logical that we should go round the globe," said Blatter, who supported African bids last week at the African Nations Cup in Ghana and Nigeria.

"Africa must have its chance to host the World Cup," he added.

Juve booter moving to English Div One

MILAN, Jan 31 (Reuters/Internet): Italian midfielder Enzo Maresca is set to join Serie A leaders Juventus from English First Division West Bromwich Albion (WBA), Italian media reported on Monday.

Juventus have not released details of the transfer fee but reports said the Turin club paid around four million pounds (6.5 million dollars) — a record for the cash-strapped English club.

Maresca is expected to begin training with Carlo Ancelotti's squad on Tuesday. No one was immediately available at WBA to comment on the reports.



Aston Villa's hat-trick hero Benito Carbone (C on the ground) heads home his second goal against Leeds United during their FA Cup fifth round game at Villa Park on January 30. —Internet photo

FA Cup

Carbone powers Villa



LONDON, Jan 31: Italian striker Benito Carbone scored a spectacular hat-trick to steer Aston Villa into the English FA Cup quarterfinals yesterday while Chelsea beat Leicester 2-1 to set up a class with giant-killers Gillingham, reports Reuters.

Carbone equalised twice to put Villa back in their fifth-round home tie against Leeds United after the visitors had dominated the early stages and then headed a 69th minute winner in the 3-2 victory after a brilliant run by midfielder Paul Merson.

Liberian striker George Weah, on loan from AC Milan, fired in a second half goal as Chelsea won the fifth-round encounter.

Both sides finished the tie with 10 men after Leicester defender Steve Walsh was sent off in the 60th minute for elbowing an opponent and Chelsea captain Dennis Wise was dismissed in injury time for his second bookable offence.

In next month's quarter-finals Chelsea will now play hosts to Second Division Gillingham who put out Premier League Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday and have reached the quarter-finals for the first time. Villa were drawn to travel to fellow Premier League side Everton.

Villa had never lost to Leeds in the FA Cup but fell behind in the 13th minute when they failed to clear the ball at a corner and defender Ian Harte fired the ball into the left-hand corner of the net.

Villa equalised in the 32nd minute when Carbone struck home a fierce volley from just inside the box. Seven minutes later Norwegian Elrik Bakke's spectacular diving header gave Leeds a 2-1 halftime lead.

Carbone put Villa back into the game again when he struck a fierce shot from 35 metres into the top left-hand corner in the 59th minute.

His third goal — a header from close range — was not as spectacular but Merson's run into the left-hand side of the box was superb. The midfielder finished by heading the ball across the five-metre box to Carbone.

Immediately after setting up the goal Merson had to leave the field with blood all over his face after a clash of heads with Leeds defender Michael Duberry.

We gave Leeds a goal start and it was an outstanding performance by our players against an exceptional side," Villa manager John Gregory said.

Chelsea went ahead in the 35th minute against Leicester after an acrobatic shot from Uruguayan Gustavo Poyet.

Weah effectively finished off



Brazilian head coach Wanderley Luxemburgo (C) and his U-23 charges wave to the crowd after their 9-0 thrashing of Colombia in the Sydney Games qualifiers in Londrina, Brazil on January 30. —Internet photo

Olympic qualifying

Brazil murder Colombia



RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 30 (Reuters/Internet): Brazil's under-23 team subjected Colombia to an historic 9-0 mauling on Sunday, providing Chile with an unexpected ticket to the final phase of this Olympic qualifying tournament in the process.

The Colombian team began the day confident of qualifying for the second phase, topping

the group on goal difference. Third-placed Chile's hopes of slipping into a second-placed slot depended on a heavy defeat for other Brazil or Colombia.

However, an unstoppable performance by a re-shuffled Brazilian team sent the fabled Colombians reeling out of the competition.

Brazil's latest sensation Ronaldinho Gauchao found the net twice, as did Edu. The other scorers were Alvaro, Athirson, Adriano, Lucas and Warley, grabbing one apiece.

Brazil's lacklustre early performances had tested the patience of goal-hungry local fans, who subjected the home team to frequent choruses of boos.

Brazilian coach Wanderley Luxemburgo's answer was to bring in Athirson, Edu and Lucas in place of Fabio Aurelio, Mozart and Fabio Junior.

His moves were quickly vindicated as the untested Brazilian team stormed into a 5-0 lead in the first half.

Colombia's efforts to repair the damage in the second half fell flat as Fabio Vargas and Meyer Candelo received red cards, and Brazil notched up four more goals.

Chileans also celebrated the result, as their prayers for a miracle were answered. Although level on points, Chile's goal difference trailed Colombia's by a seemingly unassailable seven ahead of the group's final game.

The other two nations to qualify for the final phase of the South American Olympic qualifying tournament were Uruguay and Argentina. Saturday's meeting between the two teams ended in a surprise 2-1 victory for a Uruguayan team replete with reserves.

Only two nations will eventually qualify for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. The final phase begins on Wednesday, when Uruguay meets Chile.

Brazil, in particular, covets the Olympic gold medal as the one major international honour that has evaded the world's top-ranking team.

Spartak lift Champs' Cup

MOSCOW, Jan 31: Spartak Moscow won the annual CIS Champions' Cup here on Sunday, defeating top Moldovan outfit Zimbru Chisinau 3-0 (1-0) at Moscow's Olympic Stadium, reports AFP.

Spartak's opening goal came from Russia's international striker Alexander Shirko in the 28th minute of the match, which was attended by 16,000 spectators.

In the second half the Moldovan champions thought they had scored an equaliser but it was disallowed by Ukrainian referee Vasyil Melnichuk in a disputed off-side decision.

In the 67th minute of the game Spartak's midfielder Viktor Bulatov found the net with a well-struck kick from the edge of the penalty box, while Russia's international midfielder Yegor Titov scored Spartak's third goal with seven minutes left to play to secure the Russian champions' fifth CIS Cup victory in seven attempts.

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