

Egypt celebrate Tunisia's qualification

KANO, Nigeria, Feb 4 (AFP/Internet): Egyptian players and officials joined the Tunisian delegation to celebrate the latter's qualification for the quarter-final ahead of Morocco.

The Tahir Guest Palace which accommodates both countries was a beehive of activities Thursday night as the two teams, who are scheduled to clash on Monday, sang and danced in the hotel premises.

Egypt's coach Gerard Gili explained that "Morocco would have been hard to crack if they had qualified and was delighted the Tunisians had knocked them out."

"My people are rejoicing with Tunisia because we feel they will be easier to handle. Morocco have not lost any match to an African side for over two years and that frightened us," Gili said.

"We have seen them play and we shall approach the game with Tunisia with every seriousness because any slip will lead to our being knocked out. We are neighbours - that was why we celebrated with them. But on Monday we shall fight them to the finish," Gili promised.



Members of the South African soccer team jog during a practice session at Kumasi on February 3. They meet Ghana in the African Nations' Cup on Sunday. — AFP photo

African Nations' Cup Nigeria show Morocco the door

LAGOS, Feb 4 (AFP/Internet): Nigeria confirmed their status as favourites to win the African Nations' Cup with an impressive 2-0 triumph over Morocco Thursday that sealed first place in Group D.

Defeat proved particularly costly for Morocco as they were pipped for the second place in the knockout stages by Tunisia, who had a similar goal difference to the Atlas Lions but scored more goals.

TUNISIA-CONGO
Tunisia defeated Congo 1-0 in the northern city of Kano through a Radhi Jaldi goal after 15 minutes and stay there for a North African showdown

against defending champions Egypt Monday.

"I'm so happy we qualified for the next round. But it is all due to the Nigerians who spanked Morocco for us," Tunisia's El-Omer Chokri said.

Thabet Tarek added: "I thank Allah for making victory and qualification possible for us. I also congratulate Nigeria for beating Morocco for us to scale through."

For Congo's Christian Samba there was only disappointment.

"I feel terribly sad that we lost to the Tunisians. We had the game perfectly under our control but some how we could not score. I wish Tunisia luck," he said.

opening round, later found himself with plenty of space near the penalty area and his shot was saved by Ike Shorunmu at the foot of the post.

The Moroccan was replaced by Mohammed al-Badradi just before half-time and Nigeria introduced Gbenga Okunowo and Aghahowa for Furo Iyememi and Benedict Akwuegbu at the break.

There was no change to the pattern in the second half with Nigeria pressing forward and Morocco soaking up the pressure in front of an increasingly vocal home crowd.

A slow Nigerian build up ended with Iwewire Okocha firing just over and Fohami had to react quickly when a free kick from the Paris Saint Germain midfielder bounced awkwardly in front of him.

The giant Moroccan goalkeeper, who plays in Romania for Dynamo Bucharest, did superbly to push over a 30-metre drive from Babangida that seemed destined for the roof of the net.

NIGERIA-MOROCCO
The Super Eagles will face surprise packets Senegal in Lagos the same day after a much-improved performance from a side jeered when held goalless by Congo last week.

Finidi George put the country that has won the cup twice ahead after 28 minutes and substitute Julius Aghahowa grabbed the second 10 minutes before the end of a match between two African football giants.

Nigeria began with a lot more purpose than shown in the drab deadlock with Congo and Tijani Babangida burst through after three minutes only to be foiled by advancing goalkeeper Khalid Fohami.

Morocco had a let off when Augustine 'Jay Jay' Okocha floated a free kick from just outside the penalty area over

Mutiu Adegboye, captaining the Super Eagles in the absence of Sunday Oliseh, was replaced by Garba Lawal as time ticked away and Morocco also took off their skipper with Rachid Benmahmoud coming on for Taher al-Khalel.

Nigeria sealed victory when Tunisia-based Aghahowa burst between a couple of defenders, maintained control of the ball and lobbed it over Fohami before celebrating with a series of cartwheels.

STANDINGS									
Final group standings after completion of the first round of African Nations Cup finals on Thursday:									
Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Cameroon	3	1	1	1	4	2	4		
Ghana	3	1	1	1	3	3	4		
Ivory Coast	3	1	1	1	3	4	4		
Togo	3	1	1	1	2	3	4		
Cameroon and Ghana qualify for quarter-finals.									
Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
South Africa	3	2	1	0	5	2	7		
Algeria	3	1	2	0	4	2	5		
DR Congo	3	0	2	1	0	1	2		
Gabon	3	0	1	2	2	6	1		
South Africa and Algeria qualify for quarter-finals.									
Group C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Egypt	3	3	0	0	7	2	9		
Senegal	3	1	1	1	5	4	5		
Zambia	3	0	2	1	3	5	2		
Burkina Faso	3	0	1	2	4	6	1		
Egypt and Senegal qualify for quarter-finals.									
Group D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Nigeria	3	2	1	0	6	2	7		
Tunisia	3	1	1	1	3	4	4		
Morocco	3	1	1	1	1	2	4		
Congo	3	0	1	2	0	2	1		
Nigeria and Tunisia qualifying for quarter-finals.									
Quarter final line-up:									
Feb 6: Cameroon v Algeria (Accra, 1600 GMT).									
South Africa v Ghana (Kumasi, Ghana, 1930).									
Feb 7: Egypt v Tunisia (Kano, Nigeria, 1500).									
Nigeria v Senegal (Lagos, 1800).									

the red-shirted defensive wall and it beat Fohami only to strike the crossbar and fly over.

The North Africans, who were missing suspended captain Noureddine Naybet, showed few attacking ambitions and seemed content to push the ball around at the back and in mid-field.

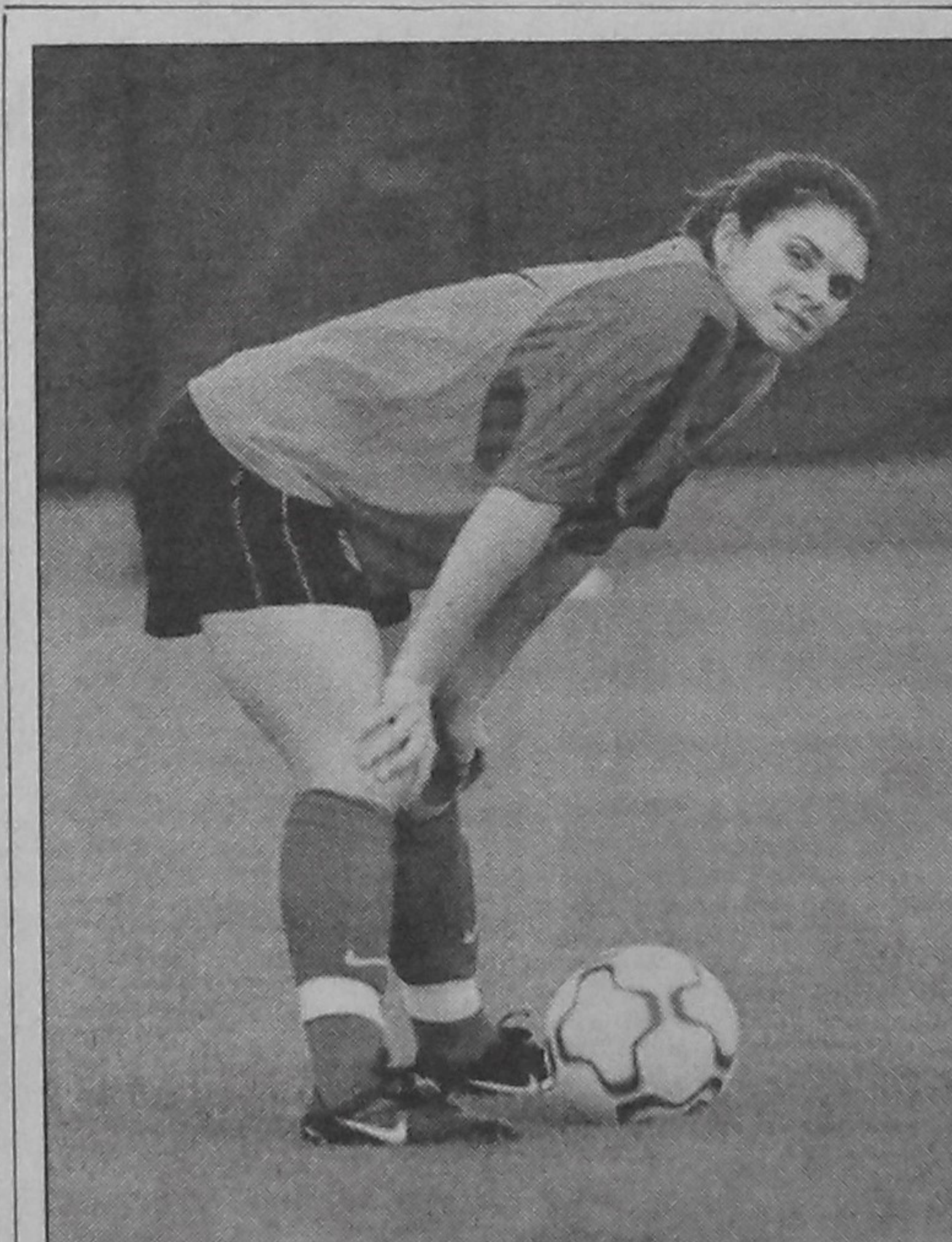
It came as no surprise when the Super Eagles moved ahead with a superb goal from Spain-based midfielder Finidi, who made little impact in the first two rounds of mini-league action.

A low pass across the field found George unmarked about 25 metres from goal. He controlled the ball, pushed it forward with his right foot and unleashed a left-foot drive that flew over the diving Fohami.

Morocco coach Henri Michel, who guided his native France to third place behind Argentina and Germany at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, immediately exposed his anxiety by reaching for a packet of cigarettes.

Taribo West rescued the home team 10 minutes before half-time with a timely intercept off Salaheddine Bassir after the Atlas Lions had penetrated deep into Nigerian territory with swift, short passes.

Bassir, who came on as a substitute to snatch the late winner against Congo in the



American women soccer star Mia Hamm during a practice session at Nova Southeastern University in Florida on February 2. The US team will take on Norway in a season-opening friendly in Fountain Lauderdale, Florida on Sunday. — Internet photo

Scottish preview Hibernian face the might of Rangers

GLASGOW, Feb 4 (AFP/Internet): Glasgow Rangers will travel to Edinburgh confident of taking another major stride towards a 49th league title when they take on fifth-placed Hibernian at Easter Road on Sunday.

Goals from American Tony Vidmar, a David Partridge own goal, Rod Wallace and substitute Neil McCann took Rangers nine points ahead of second-placed Celtic on Wednesday after a convincing 4-0 win against Dundee United at Tannadice.

The two Glasgow giants have played the same amount of games but Celtic face an uphill task in bridging the gap if they are to wrestle the title from Rangers with less than half the season to go.

Hibernian, with only six wins all season, and 21 points adrift of Dick Advocaat's side, should offer little resistance against a Rangers team with only one defeat all season.

But Advocaat refuses to be carried away by the extent of the advantage his men now hold over Celtic as he stressed the league is far from sealed.

Advocaat said: "It was a good win on Wednesday and I'm pleased with the way we played. It was one of our best performances of the season but there is still a long way to go in the championship."

"I think that we are going about things in the right way but we must remember there are still 17 more games to go."

"It is good to be nine points clear but what pleases me above all is that we are scoring goals from throughout the team."

Celtic, meanwhile, host sixth-placed Hearts on Saturday and the league's top scorers will start firm favourites against the Edinburgh side who were dumped out of the League Cup by Kilmarnock on Wednesday.

Third-placed Dundee United, on 31 points, and whose manager Paul Sturrock believes the gap between the top two and the rest of the league is wider than ever, travel to Motherwell, in fourth, with a two point advantage.

After watching his side thrashed on Wednesday night Sturrock said: "The teams with the money are miles ahead now, you can see that by the fact that we are so many points behind Rangers in third."

"If you look at any league in the world it is the money teams who are ahead. It is very easy to bemoan our league because of this but I think you find in Italy and Spain too that the teams with the most money are the ones who lead the way."

Scottish Premiership League matches on (kick-off 1500GMT unless stated):
Saturday: Aberdeen v St Johnstone, Celtic v Hearts, Motherwell v Dundee United
Sunday: Hibernian v Rangers (k/o 1805)

Congo coach blames refs

KANO, Nigeria, Feb 4: Congo's coach David Memy on Thursday attributed his team's exit from the African Nations Cup to bad refereeing, reports AFP.

Speaking after his team lost 1-0 Tunisia to go out of the event, Memy said his team lost because crucial decisions went against them, though he conceded that sometimes his side were their own worst enemies.

"We lost because the referees allowed themselves to be influenced outside the pitch. Today's match is a clear case of what I meant."

"We scored a goal but the referee insisted it did not cross the line and disallowed it."

"At this state of African football, the quality of referees is not the best. Referees should be capable, thorough and able to resist external influence in any form," stormed Memy.

"I would be frank in saying that the referees scuttled our ambition of moving further in this championship — they killed us today."

Premiership preview Liverpool can do MU a favour

LONDON, Feb 4 (AFP/Internet): Liverpool could hand their fiercest rivals an opportunity to go six points clear at the top of the Premiership on Saturday with Manchester United expected to take full points at home to Coventry while Gerard Houllier's side host Leeds, reports AFP.

There has been no love lost between United and Liverpool over the years but on this occasion Sir Alex Ferguson will be hoping the Merseyside club can put the brakes on David O'Leary's men and their challenge for the title.

United top the table on 50 points, three clear of second-placed Leeds, and nine clear of Liverpool, in fourth, who have played a game more.

Liverpool dropped valuable points at home to strugglers Middlesbrough in a 0-0 draw a fortnight ago, and Houllier knows that his side cannot afford any more slip-ups if they are to challenge for a Champions League place at the end of the season.

But Houllier's growing injury list threatens to scupper their challenge after striker Michael Owen was ruled out for at least another month.

The England international faces an intensive training programme to bring him back to full fitness after he damaged his hamstring for the fifth time in nine months in the Middlesbrough game.

Houllier is not prepared to take a gamble on Owen's long-term fitness by rushing him back too soon after seeing his career blighted through injury.

With Robbie Fowler out for two more months, Houllier must decide who will partner Guinean Titus Camara up front.

Camara played for the reserves on Monday night to sharpen up for Saturday's clash and scored both goals in a 2-0 win over Newcastle.

Leeds, meanwhile, will be looking to bounce back from their FA Cup fifth round defeat at Aston Villa last weekend and defender Michael Duberry, who needed four stitches after a sickening clash of heads with Paul Merson on Sunday, is confident Leeds will put their disappointment behind them.

The former Chelsea player said: "We let ourselves down against Villa but we're not going to let our heads go down over what happened."

"We've got to look forward and pick ourselves up for Saturday's league game with Liverpool."

"We have to be ready for that and we've proved already this season when we've suffered defeats that we've got the character, determination and skill to bounce back."

"We've let ourselves down in one competition but there is still a heck of a lot to play for."

Teddy Sheringham hopes to start for the champions against Coventry at Old Trafford with Ferguson desperate for the former England international to sign a new contract after he scored against Sheffield Wednesday in midweek.

United chairman Martin Edwards began contract talks with Sheringham's agent Barry Nevill last week and Ferguson is hoping for a positive outcome, despite West Ham's stated interest.

"The important thing is that he knows that we want him to stay so that gives us a start in negotiations," he said.

"I hope that he wants to stay, but you're never sure when negotiations start with a player."

"He knows that he's an important player for us."

"I'm sure a few people want him and a freedom of contract player of his quality will be in demand."

Third-place Arsenal, on 44 points, will be expecting victory away to Bradford, who have won just three of their 11 games at Valley Parade all season.

Manager Arsene Wenger was given a boost earlier in the week when veteran full-backs Lee Dixon and Nigel Winterburn signed new deals which will keep them at the club for at least one more year.

Dixon and Winterburn, both 36, signed one-year deals a year ago and would have been available on free transfers if Wenger had decided against extending their contracts.

Fifth-placed Sunderland, on 38 points take on FA Cup quarter-finalists Newcastle at the Stadium of Light, eager to put their season back on track after taking just one point from the last 15, while Bobby Robson's side - sixth from bottom with 27 points - will be looking to move further away from the relegation zone.

Elsewhere, George Graham's Tottenham, in seventh place, face their bogey side Chelsea, a place above, in a London derby at White Hart Lane.

Spurs have not won in 22 games against their West London rivals stretching over a 10 year period.

Premiership matches (kick-off 1500GMT unless stated):
Saturday: Aston Villa v Watford, Bradford City v Arsenal, Derby v Sheffield Wednesday, Leicester City v Middlesbrough, Liverpool v Leeds, Manchester United v Coventry City, Southampton v West Ham United, Sunderland v Newcastle, Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea
Sunday: Wimbledon v Everton (k/o 1600)

Bundesliga preview Winter break is over

BERLIN, Feb 4 (AFP/Internet): Bayern Munich have an extra two days to savour their extended winter break as title rivals Bayer Leverkusen set the ball rolling with a home match Saturday against MSV Duisburg when the Bundesliga gets going again this weekend.

Bayern may suffer a rude awakening as they were not as all-conquering in the first half of the season as they would have liked, suffering three defeats. And by the time they step out at the Volkspark Stadion to play age-old rivals Hamburg they could even find themselves in second place.

Leverkusen will thus be all out to seize their chance to go top of the pile against a Duisburg side who will be hoping that the six-week break has enabled them to put a 6-1 pre-Christmas hiding at Hamburg behind them.

Bayern fully expect to land their 16th title and their defence, the best in the Bundesliga, has stood them in good stead with only 13 goals conceded so far.

But Leverkusen have developed the art of not losing - just one defeat to date - and are determined that this season the title will go to the wire.

Both the leading pair have injury worries as Bayern will be without French world champion Bixente Lizarazu, who has an ankle injury and who last played on November 6, while Thomas Struntz is also out of action.

Bayern are also soon to lose

veteran libero and club symbol Lothar Matthaus, who in a few weeks will jet Stateside to play for Major League Soccer side New York/New Jersey Metros.

However, Bayern boss Ottmar Hitzfeld believes that German international Jens Jeremies can fill the gap in time.

Leverkusen have veteran striker Ulf Kirsten sidelined with a knee injury and Paulo Rink will deputise against third-bottom Duisburg.

Leverkusen, who have lost Brazilian international Emerson to AS Roma, are fired up by the fact they have already suffered the heartache of coming second last year to Bayern and are determined to throw off their role of eternal bridesmaids.

Their title challenge will receive its stiffest test later this month in the shape of a showdown decider at Bayern.

"We've got our two toughest games of the season coming up," said Bayern club manager Uli Hoeness in allusion to the Hamburg and Leverkusen clashes, adding he believed that the moment of truth was approaching.

Bayern's German national keeper Oliver Kahn promised that "the team are really up for it - the fire is burning within us."

Hamburg, who last filled their trophy cabinet save for a 1987 German Cup - with the 1983 European Cup, have been a major surprise with their march into the top three and could pose Bayern problems as they battle for an improbable Champions League finish.

A key factor behind their recent improvement is the form of Ghanaian former Leeds and Eintracht Frankfurt striker Tony Yeboah, who was on target twice against Duisburg and who has attracted interest from Chelsea.

Underachievers Kaiserlautern, the 1998 champions who lost their last outing at UEFA Cup contenders 1860 Munich, must improve on their current eighth spot if they are to ride the European train next season.

But they will be without former Bayern playmaker Mario Basler for Friday's trip to Borussia Dortmund, placing the burden of midfield responsibility firmly upon the shoulders of French World Cup winner Youri Djorkaeff.

Fifth-placed Dortmund have their own worries with midfield powerhouse Andi Moller out with a thigh strain.

Hertha Berlin, in midtable after last season's surge into the Champions League, will meanwhile hope their eight million dollar purchase of Brazilian striker Alex Cruz, from Cruzeiro Belo Horizonte will fire them back up the table, starting Friday night at struggling Hansa Rostock.

Hertha coach Jurgen Rober warned, however, that "integrating South Americans will take time."

Schalke 04, likewise going nowhere fast in 10th place, have made an investment of their own - nine million dollars for Belgian youngster Emile Mpenza from Standard Liege.

The sharpshooter's debut is set to come at bottom of the pile Bielefeld.

French preview Monaco take on weary Lyon

PARIS, Feb 4 (AFP/Internet): Monaco's relentless march to the French league title takes them to a Lyon laid low after a poor midweek defeat this weekend while nearest rivals Auxerre try to play catch-up at Lens.

Monaco bestrode the championship 10 points clear of Auxerre, and Claude Puel's squad will be looking for nothing short of victory against the team Strasbourg humbled 4-2 on Wednesday.

With ten rounds of the title race to go the Monaco bandwagon is rolling jauntily along with Italy's Marco Simone, the league's joint top goalscorer, playing a key part in his side's 1-0 win over Paris St Germain Tuesday.

Simone's tally of 16 is only matched by Lyon's Brazilian international Sonny Anderson.

Monaco will have to do without their Chilean defender Pablo Contreras, who, with Mexico's Rafael Marquez, is required for national duty.

It was Lyon's leaky defence that was largely to blame for their Strasbourg defeat. Skipper Florent Laville will be keen to blot out his unhappy showing it was a Laville error that let Strasbourg take the initial lead and he followed that up with an own goal.

Lyon, for the third match on the trot, must do without the injured defender Serge Blanc.

Guy Roux's Auxerre travel to a Lens side bolstered by the return after a one-match suspension of striker Pascal Nouma but Lens libero Valerian Ismael's place is not guaranteed.

he was left out of Wednesday's encounter with St Etienne for a disciplinary matter.

Auxerre, who face up to this tie without the suspended Stephane Guivarch, redcarded in the victory against Bordeaux on Tuesday, and Chilean Pedro Reyes, required for an international friendly.

Auxerre are vying for an automatic Champions League spot, prompting master pragmatist Roux to say: "We've just got to keep pedalling."

Fifth-placed Sedan, something of a surprise package having been promoted to the top flight this season, meet Troyes with a question mark over the fitness of captain Luis Satorra, suffering from a calf injury, and midfielder Mathieu Verschuere.

Defender Eduardo Oliveira may have to sit this one out after being banned for insulting the referee in the game against Bastia. He has already served a one-match ban but is waiting to hear whether that is being extended to two or even three.

Paris St Germain, who lost fiery Laurent Robert for the third time this season against Monaco, look to have a good chance of regaining the winning thread at home to relegation strugglers Nantes.

But there are rocky waters ahead for the French capital outfit, with defender Jimmy Aguerino observing: "We've got 10 matches left with some difficult away games to get through, like Marseille and Bastia, then we've got to receive sides desperate for points to avoid relegation."

Bordeaux host Strasbourg, who pulled clear of the danger

zone at the bottom of the table midweek on the back of a virtuoso performance by the 21-year-old striker Peguy Luyindula, who put in three against Lyon.


"I've always said he's the big striker of tomorrow, and now I'm even more confident," said Strasbourg coach Guy Le Roux.

Bordeaux welcome back midfielder Johan Micoud but not Lassina Diabate.

The Ivorian player was busted off to a military camp along with the rest of his teammates after the Cote d'Ivoire team's failure to make an impact in the African Nations Cup.

Marseille, in sixth, are set to be without striker Florian Maurice in their clash with Metz.

Fixtures (all 1900 GMT unless stated):
Saturday: Paris St Germain v Nantes; Bordeaux v Strasbourg; Bastia v St Etienne; Lens v Auxerre; Rennes v Nancy; Montpellier v Le Havre; Troyes v Sedan
Sunday: Metz v Marseille (1745); Lyon v Monaco (1945)



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01. Name of the work

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03. Earnest money (in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay Order/ SDR only from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh drawn in favour of the General Manager, Admin. & Expenditure Dept., Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka to be submitted along with the tender)

04. Time allowed for completion of the work

05. Eligibility for participation in the tender

06. Performance certificate form (proof of eligibility)

07. Cost of tender schedule & other terms and conditions

08. Office of selling of the tender schedule and other terms & conditions etc. & time

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10. Office of receiving the tender

11. Date & time of receiving the tender

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Tender schedule can be purchased directly from Administration & Expenditure Dept. (BPD), 7th floor of 30-storied Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka during office hours from 9-00 AM to 2-00 PM within the stipulated dates.

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