

### World Cup 2002 800 dollars ticket for final

TOKYO, Mar 23: Tickets for the final match of the 2002 football World Cup may be priced at up to 85,000 yen (795 dollars) at home, an official at the Japanese organising committee said Thursday, reports AFP.

"The figure is just an idea and the price could be higher or lower. Nothing has been decided yet," said the official at the Japanese committee of the World Cup finals to be co-hosted with South Korea.

"Revenue from ticket sales will account for a major part of our finances and it will be decided carefully," he said.

The official, who declined to be named, said ticket prices would be decided in close consultation with football's world governing body FIFA, possibly after an executive meeting of the Japanese organising committee in mid-April.

He was referring to a report by the Kyodo News agency that top-priced tickets for the final match will go on sale in Japan for as much as 85,000 yen each.

For sales abroad, the same 2002 World Cup tickets would be priced lower at 750 euro, or 720 dollars at Thursday's exchange rate here, the report said.

The final match is scheduled to be held on June 30, 2002, at International Stadium in Yokohama, south of Tokyo.

Kyodo News, quoting officials of the committee, said tickets for first-round fixtures would cost fans up to 17,000 yen.

The Japanese organizers will start handling applications for tickets from September, with distribution to be decided by lottery, Kyodo News said.

Tickets for the 1998 World Cup final in France went as high as 4,950 French francs or about 47,000 yen, Kyodo said.

### Henry returns to French fold

PARIS, Mar 23: Thierry Henry's sparkling form for Arsenal has won him a recall to the French squad for the friendly international against Scotland in Glasgow next Wednesday, reports AFP.

Henry has been a regular scorer for Arsenal Wenger at Highbury since injuries to Dennis Bergkamp and Marc Overmars gave him his first team chance and French coach Roger Lemerre is still struggling to find a settled strike force ahead of the Euro2000 finals this summer in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Lemerre has also recalled another World Cup winner in Christophe Dugarry. The Bordeaux player is gradually coming back to form after a disastrous spell at Marseille where he was roundly booed every time he touched the ball by the home fans.

Monaco's position atop the French First Division was acknowledged with a first selection for attacking midfielder Ludovic Giuly, while Bordeaux goalkeeper Ulrich Rame is named as backup to Fabien Barthez of Monaco.

Out of the squad from the last friendly against Poland go strikers Tony Vairelles of Lyon, David Trezeguet of Monaco and Stephane Guivarch of Auxerre.

Lemerre has largely untouched and midfield largely untouched with the World Cup players in place.

The Scotland match is the second for France in their build-up to Euro2000 where they have been drawn with the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Denmark. They beat Poland 1-0 in Paris on February 23.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Fabien Barthez (Monaco), Ulrich Rame (Monaco)  
**Defenders:** Laurent Blanc (Inter Milan), Marcel Desailly (Chelsea), Frank Leboeuf (Chelsea), Bixente Lizarazu (Bayern Munich), Lilian Thuram (Parma), Vincent Candela (Roma)  
**Midfielders:** Didier Deschamps (Chelsea), Patrick Vieira (Arsenal), Zinedine Zidane (Juventus), Robert Pires (Marseille), Emmanuel Petit (Arsenal)  
**Strikers:** Sylvain Wiltord (Bordeaux), Youri Djorkaeff (Kaiserslautern), Christophe Dugarry (Bordeaux), Ludovic Giuly (Monaco), Thierry Henry (Arsenal).

### Abedi, Milla on the road for SA bid

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 23 (Internet report): South Africa's 2006 World Cup bid committee ambassadors Abedi Pele Ayew and Roger Milla will join the SA delegation which travels worldwide in the coming months in the final push of the World Cup bid campaign.

Milla, the African Footballer of the Century, and former Ghanaian captain Pele, will take the message that "Africa deserves to host the World Cup" when the SA 2006 bidding committee pays upcoming visits to FIFA executive committee members in Mali, Saudi Arabia, Scotland and Turkey.

SA bid committee chief executive officer Danny Jordaan said the two ambassadors were recognised worldwide as the two finest footballers ever to come out of Africa and have been enthusiastic proponents of the SA bid.

## Lazio end Chelsea's home run

LONDON, Mar 23: Italian giants Lazio secured top spot in Champions League Group D on Wednesday after coming from behind to beat Chelsea 2-1 at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday, with the London club joining them in the last eight as runners-up, reports AFP.

Chelsea's loss was their first home defeat in European competition in 42 years.

Uruguayan international Gustavo Poyet gave the home side the lead on the stroke of 25-yard shot but Sven-Goran Eriksson's side came back strongly in the second half to win the game.

Simone Inzaghi levelled the scores with a tap-in after good work by Pavel Nedved and Yugoslav Sinisa Mihajlovic's breathtaking free-kick from the edge of the area sealed victory for the visitors.

One sour note was the sending-off of Portuguese international Fernando Couto after 83 minutes for a horrific tackle on Tore Andre Flo.

Chelsea became the first English club to field a team full of foreigners in a European game with coach Gianluigi Viali forced to leave out captain Dennis Wise who was injured in a training ground accident.

Lazio coach Eriksson could not hide his delight at beating Chelsea who will now face one of the group winners in the quarter-finals.

Eriksson admitted that the absence of Englishmen Wise was crucial.

"I cannot say I cried when I heard Wise would not be playing because he is a world class player," said the Swede.

Included in Chelsea's line-up were three World Cup winning Frenchmen. Two of those Desailly and Didier Deschamps are bidding to become the first men to win the European Cup with three different teams.

Both men, friends since their days together in the Nantes youth team, won with Marseille in 1993 and Deschamps has since triumphed with Juventus and Desailly with AC Milan.

The third member of the 1998 World Cup winning side Frank Leboeuf will miss the quarter-final first leg through suspension.

"It's beautiful to win at Stamford Bridge because we knew it would be difficult against such a great team," he said.

"We really wanted to win and the guys showed their true spirit today by winning after going a goal down."

Viali, meanwhile, refused to be too down-hearted after surrendering top spot to the Italian side.

A defiant Viali said: "It seems to me that when things are difficult and almost impossible we get the best out of this team."

"I thought in the second half we were in control of the game but against Lazio you never know as they have so many quality players."

"If you do something wrong they'll take full advantage of that and that's what happened. They scored and we panicked a little and then they scored again. We got a great reaction but it was too late."

Lazio played five men in midfield with Inzaghi playing up front on his own, but the formation was far from defensive with the Rome club showing their attacking flair early on.

In fact the visitors nearly took the lead after just three minutes. Czech Republic midfielder Arturo Ibanez for a second

fielder Nedved crossed from the left and Inzaghi's instinctive volley was palmed out by Ed de Goey.

Three minutes later Sebastian Veron's goal-bound shot was tipped round the post by de Goey and Nedved went close moments later when he shot straight at De Goey.

But the home side weathered the early pressure and came to life a minute later through Gianfranco Zola.

The Sardinian's half-volley was curling towards the top corner but keeper Luca Marchegiani stretched out a hand and pushed the ball away for a corner.

Di Matteo was booked after 12 minutes by Portuguese referee Vitor Manuel Melo Pereira for fouling Argentine international Diego Simeone.

Three minutes later Dejan Stankovic headed over with only de Goey to beat and at the other end Poyet had a free-

unstoppable right foot shot which flew into the top corner for his 13th goal of the season. Lazio brought on Alen Boksic for Stankovic for the start of the second half and he should have levelled the scores two minutes after the break.

Marcel Desailly underhit a backpass to de Goey and with the keeper stranded, Boksic was clear through but his shot crashed into the side-netting.

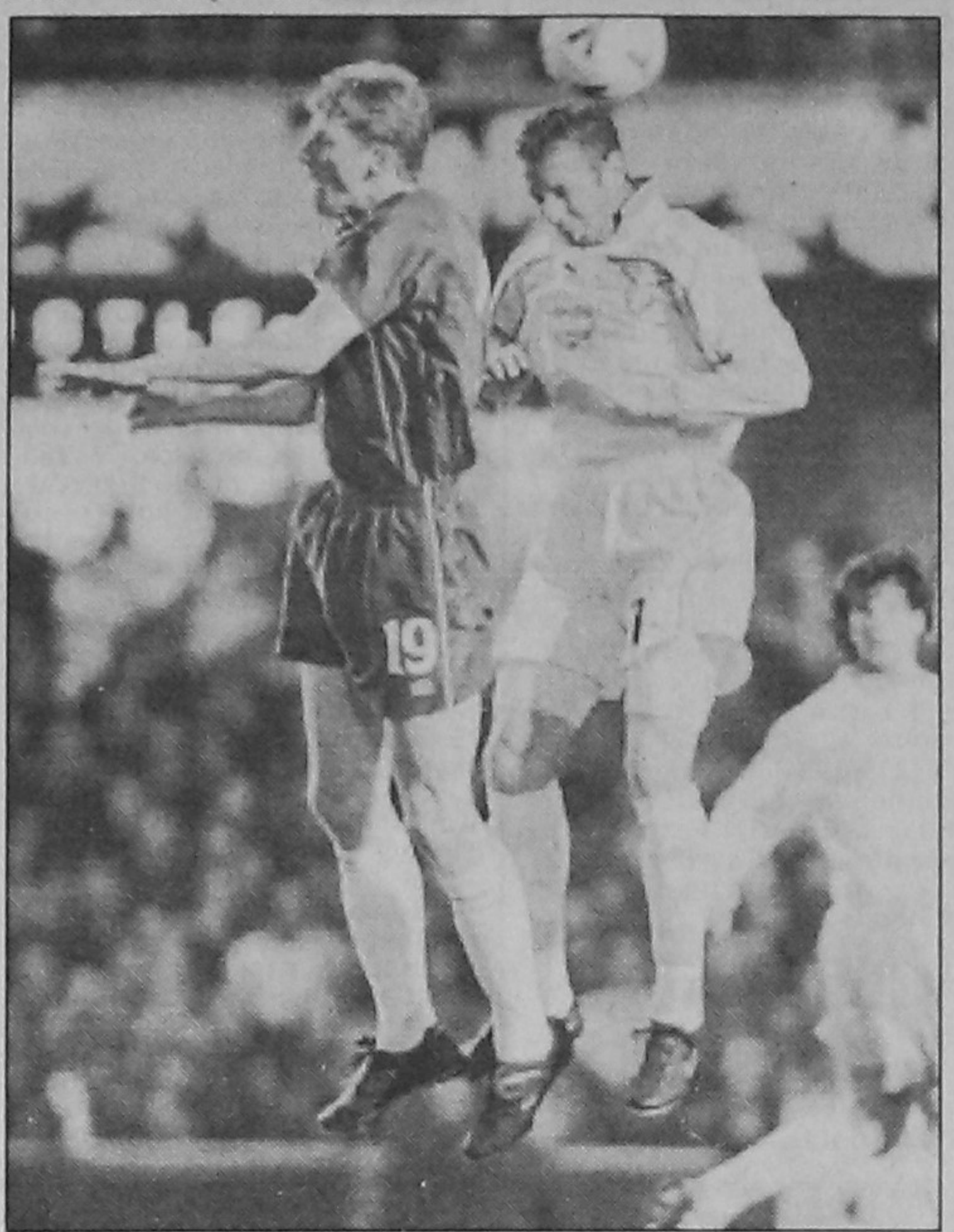
Chelsea failed to heed the warning and Lazio were on level terms after 54 minutes.

Nedved lost his balance when lining up a shot but managed to knock the ball across goal for Inzaghi to tap in.

The visitors grew in confidence after the goal and pressed forward for a winner.

And after 66 minutes free-kick specialist Mihajlovic put the Italians in front.

The Yugoslav curled a stunning shot into the top corner



Lazio's Yugoslav star Sinisa Mihajlovic(R) locked in an aerial tussle with Chelsea's Norway international striker Tore Andre Flo during their Champions League game at London on March 22. — AFP photo

header in the box which sailed wide.

After 28 minutes, Mihajlovic hit a fierce free-kick which de Goey spilled at the feet of Stankovic but Frank Leboeuf came to the rescue by booting the ball to safety.

Chelsea were playing a counter-attacking style, trying to hit the Italians on the break, and Flo came close after 34 minutes when his header was miraculously saved by Marchegiani.

A minute later Leboeuf turned villain when he was booked for an altercation with Couto and the French international will now miss the next match.

Lazio's best chance came after 42 minutes when Couto should have scored when unmarked in the box, but his header from Nedved's accurate right wing cross failed to hit the target.

The miss proved costly for Lazio because two minutes later Gustavo Poyet gave Chelsea the lead.

Didier Deschamps won the ball in midfield to release the Uruguayan who unleashed an

from wide on the right with the home defence expecting a cross. Four minutes later Dan Petrescu chipped the on-rushing Marchegiani but the keeper got a slight touch on the ball to take it out for a corner.

Chelsea's tails were up when Couto saw red and Petrescu nearly equalised for the Blues with four minutes to go but his shot was blocked on the line by Paolo Negro.

Chelsea could now face reigning champions and Premiership leaders Manchester United in Friday's draw takes place. With group winners kept apart, Bayern Munich, United, Barcelona and Lazio will be in one pot while Real Madrid, Valencia, Porto and Chelsea will be in the other.

Viali admitted that the prospect of facing United, Bayern or Barcelona in the last eight was an awesome one.

"Choosing between those three is like choosing to fight Mike Tyson, Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) or George Foreman," said Viali, a teammate of Deschamps in that victorious Juventus team in 1996.

done better than missing the target altogether when Spanish playmaker Ivan de la Pena put him free.

Marseille ended their dreadful campaign with just two goals in their six matches and face a long hard battle against relegation while Feyenoord at least could hold their heads high at going so close to qualifying after taking four points off Italian giants Lazio, including a memorable win in Rome.

Feyenoord's Jon-Dahl Toniasson had a goal with a spectacular bicycle kick ruled out in the first-half rather harshly for dangerous play as a Marseille player came from behind to head the ball away.

Minutes later Marseille keeper Stephane Porato did well to save a fierce effort from Paul Bosvelt.

Ibrahim Bakayoko had Marseille's best two chances in the first-half one long range effort being tipped away for a corner while he should have

Martini was given his marching orders by Spanish

Marseille's veteran defender Jean Paul Van Gastel(L) keeping Marseille's Jerome Leroy at bay during their Champions League fixture at Marseille on March 22. — AFP photo

### RESULTS AT A GLANCE

PARIS, Mar 23 (AFP): Colated results of European Champions League second-phase matches on Wednesday night:

**Group C**  
**In Trondheim**  
Rosenborg (Nor) 0 Real Madrid (Spa) 1 (Raul 3)  
**In Kiev**  
Dynamo Kyiv (Ukr) 2 (Kaladze 34, Demetradze 72) Bayern Munich (Ger) 0  
**Group D**  
**In Marseille**  
Marseille (Fra) 0 Feyenoord (Ned) 0  
**In London**  
Chelsea (Eng) 1 (Poyet 44) Lazio (Ital) 2 (Inzaghi 54, Mihajlovic 66)

### Deschamps lands in hospital

LONDON, Mar 23: France's World Cup winning captain Didier Deschamps was spending Wednesday night in hospital after being concussed during his club side Chelsea's 2-1 defeat by Lazio in the Champions League, reports AFP.

Midfielder Deschamps will spend a night in hospital, according to assistant coach Gwyn Williams.

"Didier was a bit dazed at the end of the match but he does not remember at what moment he sustained the injury," said Williams. "He will spend the night in hospital just as a precaution."

Both Chelsea and Lazio qualified for the Champions League quarter-final draw in Geneva on Friday with the Italian side seeded as group winners and the London team going into the runners-up pot.

### Be aware of French men!

MEXICO, Mar 23: Argentinian player Eduardo Berizzo, formerly of French First Division club Marseille, claimed in an interview published on Wednesday that French footballers are "a bunch of faggots".

"Faggots, a bunch of faggots is what you have in French football," he said in an interview with the Mexican daily La Cronica.

Berizzo, who now plays for Argentina's River Plate said he stopped playing for Marseille because "there are so many homosexual players there, they always provoke you, they touch your thighs, your bum, to see if you will give some kind of signal."

"I left France because one lived among a bunch of faggots: I felt like an outsider among so many people who lived like this as if it were the most normal thing in the world. That's how they live in Europe," he said.

"Obviously I feel disgusted when a homosexual shares the same shower and stares at one's bum with desire, and even gets emotional when you are naked. Disgusting," said Berizzo.

Berizzo, who has played for his national team, had a short and unsuccessful stint with Marseille this season before returning to Argentina.

### FIFA meeting on key issues

ZURICH, Switzerland, Mar 23: World governing body FIFA meets here Thursday and Friday to talk about key issues such as the harmonisation of the international calendar, doping and player availability, reports AFP.

FIFA chief Sepp Blatter has said the meeting will aim to "modernise and bring up to date world football".

Based on proposals made by a committee comprising football legends Michel Platini of France, Sir Bobby Charlton of England and Brazilian Pele, FIFA will study the possibility of a new international calendar.

They have proposed playing all international matches between February and November with December allocated for rest and January for training and preparation.



Real Madrid ace Raul Gonzalez(R) about to charge towards the Rosenborg goal during their Champions League match at Trondheim on March 22. — Internet photo

## Real scrape through

TRONDHEIM, Norway, Mar 23: Real Madrid survived a nerve wracking Champions League Group C match, playing almost the entire second-half with just 10 men after Guti was sent-off to beat Rosenborg 1-0 here on Wednesday night and secure a place in the quarter-finals, reports AFP.

The seven times champions had to win here to make sure of appearing in Friday's last eight draw as Group C runners-up behind Bayern Munich, and they caught the Norwegians cold, racing into a three minute lead.

Skipper Fernando Hierro launched an inch perfect ball to Raul who beat the offside trap to fire a left footed shot past Rosenborg's Icelandic keeper Arni Gautur Arason.

Raul refused to take the plaudits, saying: "I must take my hat off to the whole team. In the quarter-finals it does not matter who we meet... Manchester (United), Lazio or Barcelona."

Raul's strike helped settle the Spaniards nerves in a game they had to face without their prolific international striker Fernando Morientes, out with a muscle problem on his right thigh.

Coach Vicente del Bosque threw 19-year-old David Aganzo Mendez into the Champions League deep end for the first time as a replacement.

With Jan Derek Sorensen on the left side and coveted striker John Carew in the centre the hosts started in positive fashion underlining their pre-match claim that they were

gunning for a result despite being bottom of the group and already eliminated.

On a snow-soaked pitch Rosenborg very nearly got an equaliser just before the break when Carew's shot was edged out by Real's 18-year-old stopper Iker Casillas.

Real endured a nightmare second half with Hierro taken off injured and the dismissal of Guti for his second caution of the night shortly after the interval. The Madrid-born midfielder suffered the same fate in the World Cup championships.

But they held tight to edge out Dynamo Kyiv, the other Group C team chasing a runners-up spot, who ran out 2-0 winners over Bayern Munich - both finished on 10 points but Real squeezed it on their two head-to-head meetings.

## Kyiv's heart-breaking win

KIEV, Mar 23: Dynamo Kyiv settled an old score in downing Bayern Munich 2-0 here Wednesday night but the victory was not enough to put them in the Champions League quarter-finals, reports AFP.

This result left the Ukrainians, who were knocked out of the competition by Bayern last year at the semi-finals stage, lying level on 10 points with Real Madrid, 1-0 winners over Rosenborg, as Group C second phase runners-up.

But the Spaniards follow group leaders Bayern into the last eight because of their better head-to-head results against Dynamo.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld played a second team side mindful that his side had already qualified with stars Oliver Kahn, Markus Babel, Stefan Effenberg, Jens



Bayern Munich's Patrick Andersson(L) tackling Dynamo Kyiv's George Demitradze during their Champions League encounter at Kiev on March 22. — AFP photo

### EIGHT QUALIFIERS FOR QUARTER-FINAL DRAW

PARIS, Mar 23 (AFP): Eight qualifiers for Champions League quarter-final draw to be made on Friday:

**Pot A (winners of respective groups A-D):** Barcelona (Spa), Manchester United (Eng), Bayern Munich (Ger), Lazio (Ital)

**Pot B (runners-up in groups A-D):** Porto (Por), Valencia (Spa), Real Madrid (Spa), Chelsea (Eng)  
\*Runners-up cannot be drawn to play winners of their respective groups

Jeremies, Bixente Lizarazu, Giovanni Elber and Carsten Jancker, and Paulo Sergio all rested.

Mehmet Scholl was also missing, serving out a suspension.

Bayern tried to stun Dynamo from the gun but the hosts soon seized the initiative, searching to expose their opponent's defensive weaknesses.

In the 34th minute Dynamo's Georgian international midfielder Kaha Kaladze opened the scoring, bundling

the ball in after a well-served corner by his Belarusian teammate Valentin Belkevich.

After the break Bayern moved up a gear, looking for an equaliser and their striker Antonio Di Salvo, a substitute, shot over the crossbar from 10 metres after Michael Weisinger's cross from the right.

In the 72nd minute Kyiv got their second after Andrei Husin fed the ball to George Demetradze, whose overhead shot slammed into Bayern's net.

## There's hope for Anelka

PARIS, Mar 23: French coach Roger Lemerre on Thursday denied rejecting Nicolas Anelka and said that the troubled striker could still make the Euro2000 selection, reports AFP.

Lemerre said that the door was still open for the player currently serving a 45-day suspension by Spanish giants Real Madrid for missing three days of training without permission.

"His (Anelka) participation in Euro2000 is still very possible," said Lemerre.

However, the wayward French striker was omitted from the French squad for next Wednesday's friendly international against Scotland in Glasgow, the second for France in their build-up to Euro2000 where they have been drawn with the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Denmark.

"There was never any question of rejecting him, on the contrary Anelka is part of the French group like all the other players, no more or no less," said Lemerre.

"The French Football Feder-

ation (FFF), the French team and its coach are not in any way responsible for the present situation of Nicolas," said Lemerre, adding that he would have invited Anelka to participate in the French team session but other engagements had prevented it.

Anelka was set to return to Spain on Wednesday and resume training at Real Madrid after spending a few days at home on the outskirts of Paris, a close acquaintance said.

"It is necessary to leave time to time," said Lemerre. "I think that his relationship with Real will sort itself out. The future is in his hands and can only be decided by him."

FFF president Claude Simeonet had said Monday that Anelka would not be considered for selection by the French squad until his suspension with Real ended.

Missing Euro2000 would be a blow for 21-year-old Anelka who was one of six players omitted by Lemerre's predecessor Aime Jacquet when he named his final 22-man squad for the eventually successful 1998 World Cup campaign.

### STANDINGS

PARIS, Mar 23 (AFP): European Champions League tables after matches played Wednesday night (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Group C		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bayern Munich	6	4	1	1	13	8	13	
Real Madrid	6	3	1	2	11	12	10	
Dynamo Kyiv	6	3	1	2	10	8	10	
Rosenborg	6	0	1	5	5	11	1	

Group D		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Lazio	6	3	2	1	10	4	11	
Chelsea	6	3	1	2	8	5	10	
Feyenoord	6	2	2	2	7	7	8	
Marseille	6	1	1	4	2	11	4	