

Sport

Marsh's words of wisdom

ADELAIDE, Australia, Apr 19: Australia's next generation of Test cricketers were Wednesday lectured on the dangers of match-fixing in the sport, reports AFP.

Rod Marsh, former Test wicketkeeper and head coach of the Adelaide-based Cricket Academy, said knowing what's right and wrong was common sense.

"You can't teach them how to deal with it, you let them know that it's just not on but at their level, it's just an education thing," he said.

Marsh said academy cricketers also learned about financial investment, etiquette and other issues.

Marsh said he would have no problem talking about the infamous test he and fast bowler Dennis Lillee made on England to win a Test match against Australia in 1981 at Headingley.

The pair bet that England would win the match at odds of 500-1.

Despite needing just 130 runs to win the Test, Australia could manage only 111 after English pace bowler Bob Willis returned figures of 8-43 in the second innings.

"I have no conscience about that. I have no problems about talking to anyone about that," Marsh said.

That's something that happened, that's a fact of life, and I had a five quid bet, I mean, big deal. Most Australians have done that.

International stars, Shane Warne, Ricky Ponting, Adam Gilchrist, Justin Langer and Brett Lee have been through the academy, which aims to bridge the gap between youth programs and first class international cricket.

Croatia team for Austria friendly

ZAGREB, April 19 (AFP): Croatian coach Miroslav Blazevic on Wednesday announced the following squad for a friendly with Austria to be played in Vienna on April 26:

SQUAD:
Goalkeepers: Stipe Pletkovic (Hajduk Split), Zeljko Pavosic (LASK Linz/Aut)
Defenders: Daniel Saric (Dynamo Zagreb), Boris Zivkovic (Bayer Leverkusen/Ger), Igor Stimac (West Ham United/Eng), Dario Simic (Inter Milan/Ita), Robert Kovac (Bayer Leverkusen/Ger), Robert Jarni (Las Palmas/Spa), Igor Tudor (Juventus/Ita), Stjepan Tomas (Dynamo Zagreb), Mario Cvitanovic (Dynamo Zagreb), Zvonimir Soldo (VfB Stuttgart/Ger)

Middlefielders: Aljosa Asanovic (Panathinaikos/Gre), Mario Stanic (Parma/Ita), Niko Kovac (Hamburg SV/Ger), Krivoslav Jurcic (Torino/Ita)
Forwards: Alen Boksic (Lazio/Ita), Davor Suker (Arsenal/Eng), Davor Vugrinec (Trabzonspor/Tur), Josip Simic (Dynamo Zagreb), Milan Rapacic (Perugia/Ita)

Nothing can

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| | |
|--|-----|
| A Hanif run out | 26 |
| Sajjad c Shahnewaz b Ziaul S Malik b Ziaul | 51 |
| Ziauddin c Shahnewaz b Ziaul Mridul c Ziaul b Sabbir | 23 |
| Mozif c Ziaul b Sabbir | 5 |
| Inzam c Biplab b Sabbir | 15 |
| Mozif c Aftab b Biplab | 37 |
| Mossaddeq c Fahad b Sabbir | 10 |
| Russell not out | 11 |
| Extras: (lb-2, w-10) | 0 |
| Total: (All out in 48.2 overs) | 12 |
| Fall of wickets: 1/22; 2/80; 3/124; 4/132; 5/134; 6/171; 7/189; 8/192; 9/211 | 213 |

Result: Victoria Sporting Club won by 23 runs.

Indians raise

From page 13

The retired judge completed his probe in 1997 and handed it over to the BCCI but the report was kept under wraps. Chandrachud had said the report went beyond match-fixing.

Sanjay Nirupam, an MP of Shiv Sena party, called on the government to explore the possibility of "concrete legislation" to ban betting, especially in cricket.

"Who knows tomorrow events in the house may also be betted upon," he said.

The calls came after Delhi police earlier this month alleged South African captain Hansie Cronje was part of a match-fixing racket along with three of his teammates, Herschelle Gibbs, Nicky Boje and Pieter Strydom.

The police cited transcripts of alleged telephone conversations between Cronje and London-based businessman Sanjay Chawla before the last of the five matches in the South Africa India one-day series.

Delhi police believe at least nine alleged bookies may have been involved in match-fixing and betting during the India-South Africa clashes in February and March.



THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING: Barcelona striker Patrick Kluivert is ecstatic as he looks towards the heavens after scoring the fifth and last goal against Chelsea at the Nou Camp on April 18.

Chelsea bubble bursts Barcelona put mettle on show

BARCELONA, April 19: Spanish title holders Barcelona produced a performance of champion pedigree here Tuesday, beating England's Chelsea 5-1 after extra-time to set up a Champions League semi-final showdown with compatriots Valencia - and possibly save the job of their Dutch coach Louis Van Gaal.

Barca, victorious 6-4 on aggregate, were dominant on the night but with Chelsea having won the quarter final first leg 3-1 in London it was a nail-biting evening at their packed Nou Camp arena for a return tie full of incident and drama.

It was a truly astonishing match. Barca took a 2-0 lead with first-half goals from Rivaldo and Luis Figo before Tore Andre Flo, thanks to a dreadful blunder from Barca keeper Rued Hesp, pulled one back for Chelsea. Then Dani made it 3-1 on the night for the Spaniards and 4-4 on aggregate.

Barca continued to pressure, but then Chelsea nearly equalised on the night twice before the interval.

Both opportunities came from indifferent goalkeeping from Barca's Rued Hesp.

First he tried to clear with a kick only for the ball to strike Chelsea's Albert Ferrer - a former Barcelona player - but the ball ricocheted just wide.

Then Hesp came needlessly off his line and Chelsea's Nigerian striker Flo headed wide with the goal at his mercy.

And the Londoners were made to pay for that profligacy as Barca grabbed a second in the closing seconds of the half.

Kluivert's shot struck a post and the rebound fell to Figo who netted with aplomb, sending the Nou Camp crowd wild.

Chelsea's French World Cup winning defender Marcel Desailly and Frank Leboeuf, meanwhile, squared up to each other, clearly blaming each other for the goal.

That left the score at 2-0 at the break, level on aggregate at 3-3 but the Catalans now had the advantage as they would progress on the away goal rule should the score remain the same at full-time.

And Barca came out all guns blazing in the second period.

Within seconds of the restart Kluivert almost poached a third with Chelsea's French substitute Bernard Lambourde - on for Ferrer - left out of position.

Then Chelsea skipper Dennis Wise was cautioned, joining Ferrer in the book. Figo too was yellow carded and will miss the semi-final first leg.

But on the hour Chelsea stunned the Nou Camp by scoring although it took a truly dreadful blunder from Hesp.

With no apparent pressure Hesp kicked the ball straight to Flo, who composed himself, sidestepping a challenge from Pujol, before placing a left-footed shot just inside the far post.

Now Chelsea were back in front on aggregate and had also cancelled out Figo's away goal in the first leg but almost immediately Kluivert struck a post with a header from close range.

Roberto Di Matteo spurned a good chance for Chelsea before Dani missed a glorious chance to level the aggregate score when he headed into the side netting.

Another header from Dani was superbly saved by de Goeij before Rivaldo blatantly dived in a vain bid to win a penalty at the expense of Desailly, who scored against Barcelona in the 1994 final for AC Milan.

But after 83 minutes Dani atoned for his earlier mistake by heading home to make it 3-1 on the night and 4-4 on aggregate.

But the drama was only just starting. Leboeuf brought down Kluivert in the area, and fortunately for Chelsea, referee Anders Frisk blew for the penalty a split second before the Dutchman, despite being floored by the tackle, put the ball into the net.

The Londoners also breathe a sigh of relief when Leboeuf escaped a red card and must have thought luck was on their side when Rivaldo missed the target from the spot.

When extra-time started Dani was again denied by de Goeij after Lambourde had given possession away but then Barca took the lead after 98 minutes.

A brilliant solo run by Figo was halted by an illegal challenge by Babayaro who was sent off.

Creditably Rivaldo volunteered and his time made no mistake on the spot.

Six minutes later Kluivert headed the ball past de Goeij to make it 5-1 on the night and clinch the tie 6-4 on aggregate.

While Gazidis would not say Hernandez is the Mexican involved, both the New York Times and AFP league sources named the 31-year-old standout as the player.

Hernandez, the third-best scorer at the 1994 World Cup with four goals in four games, is regarded as one of the best Mexican players of his generation. He is currently playing for the Tigres of the Mexican First Division.

Spain rule Europe!

MADRID, Apr 19: Spanish fans on Wednesday relished an exciting Champions League comeback by FC Barcelona, one of two solid performances which guarantee Spain a presence in the final of Europe's top soccer tournament, reports AP.

"Spain will take Paris," the sports daily As touted in a frontpage headline. "We are Paris-bound," its rival Marca added.

Barcelona's win over Chelsea came as Valencia also advanced to the semifinals on a 5-3 aggregate despite a 1-0 loss to Italian team Lazio.

Barcelona and Valencia will face off in the semifinals in May. And if Real Madrid beats Manchester United in a quarter-final game on Wednesday night, three Spanish teams will have made it to the final four. No country can boast such a feat.

In fact, no country other than Spain has had two of their teams face off in the semifinals. Spain did it 1959 and 1960.

On Tuesday night Barcelona were trailing Chelsea 3-1 from the away leg of their quarter-final tie and there were fears that their ugly streak of four straight lopsided losses would drag on.

But Barcelona came out fighting from the outset and pulled off a dramatic 5-1 win that went into extra time before 85,000 ecstatic supporters at cavernous Camp Nou stadium.

The front page of the Catalan sports daily Mundo Deportivo summed it up nicely with banner headline that screamed, "Delirium!" Under it was a photo of a smiling Patrick Kluivert, sprawled on the ground and hugging Dani Garcia, who scored one of Barcelona's goals.

Inside the paper, a cartoon depicted coach Louis Van Gaal, midfielder Luis Figo, who also scored, and team captain Josep Guardiola as saints marching in one of the many Easter processions that snake through Spanish streets this time of year.

Van Gaal said the win might be just what Barcelona needed to regain momentum in the Spanish league and cup, where they gave up nine goals in their last three games. "This could turn things around," he said.

Newspapers gleefully pointed out that frequent German and Italian domination of Europe's top tournament is over for at least a year. The final is to be played May 24 in Paris.

Spain has won the European Cup eight times - seven by Real Madrid, the last of them in 1998, and once by FC Barcelona in 1995. This year's defending champion is Manchester United.

And twice, Spanish teams have squared off in the semifinals: Real Madrid-Atletico Madrid in 1959 and Real Madrid-Barcelona in 1960. Both Madrid emerged victorious and went on to take the cup.

MLS eying Hernandez

NEW YORK, April 19: Major League Soccer officials are making a bid to sign Mexican international forward Luis Hernandez, reports AFP.

"We are working on a few different fronts. We are in negotiations with a Mexican player," said MLS executive vice-president Ivan Gazidis, who signs all MLS players and oversees their allocations to clubs in the 12-team US league.

"Things are progressing positively. If the player comes, it won't be until the end of the Mexican season but I'm confident we will make an announcement before that."

While Gazidis would not say Hernandez is the Mexican involved, both the New York Times and AFP league sources named the 31-year-old standout as the player.

Hernandez, the third-best scorer at the 1994 World Cup with four goals in four games, is regarded as one of the best Mexican players of his generation. He is currently playing for the Tigres of the Mexican First Division.

Solace only for Lazio

ROME, April 19: Lazio beat Valencia 1-0 here on Tuesday night but it was the Spanish side who booked their place in the European Champions League semi-finals, reports AFP.

Juan Sebastian Veron broke the deadlock in the 52nd minute with a stunning but Valencia's resounding 5-2 victory in the first leg a fortnight ago saw them through.

The Italian side went out heads high after dominating a tie they could have won by a bigger margin were it not for a mixture of bad luck and great goalkeeping by Valencia's Santiago Canizares.

The Spaniards could meanwhile regret a goal that was disallowed by Dutch referee Dick Jol midway through the second half.

Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson said: "We could have

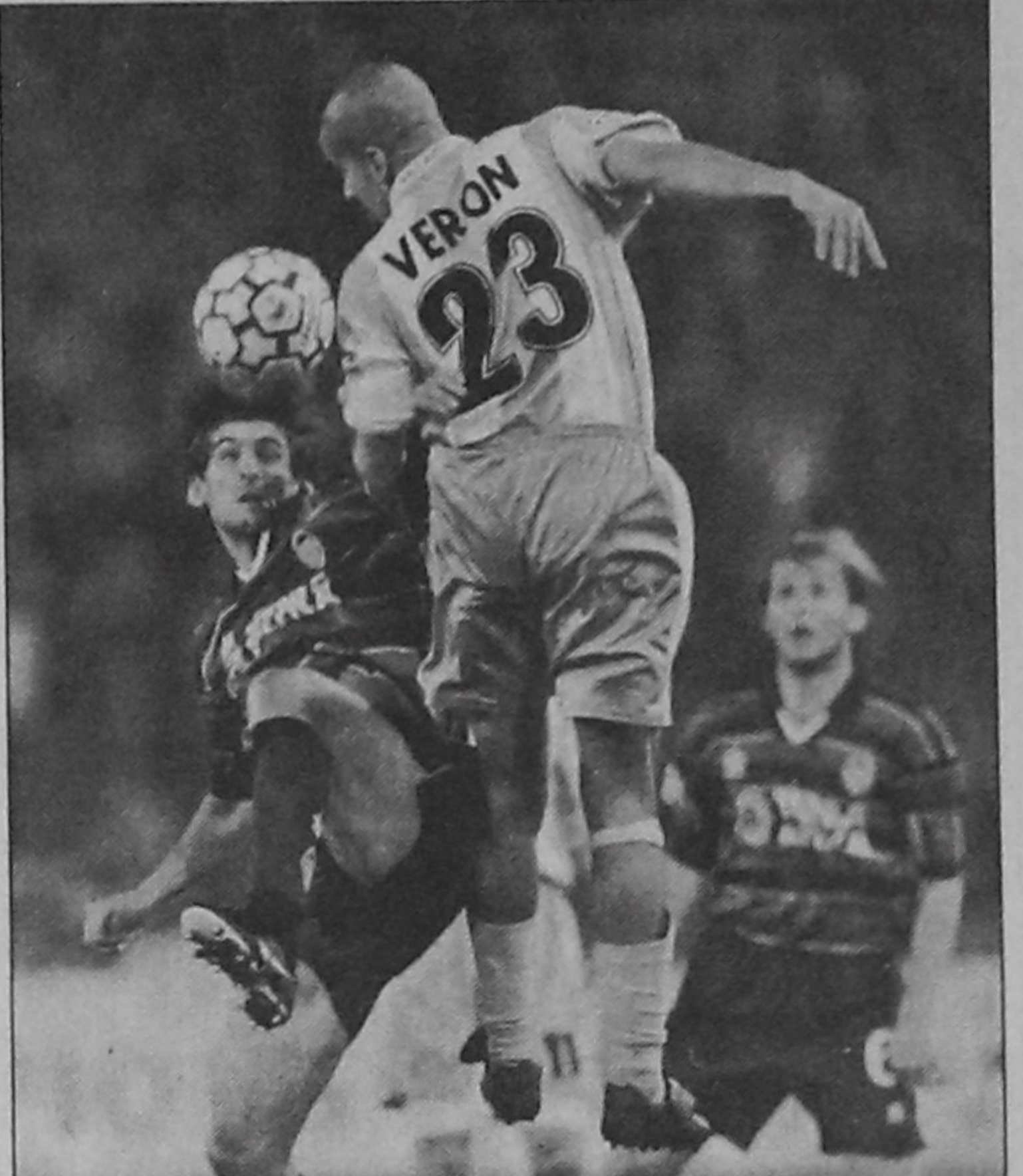
Argentinian Matias Almeyda nearly scored a stunner in the 27th minute.

Canizares punched away a cross and Lazio's Argentinian midfielder chested the ball down before lifting a first-time volley just beyond the far post with Canizares completely stranded.

Teammate Marcelo Salas could also have scored five minutes later after Portuguese winger Sergio Conceicao broke towards the right-hand goal-line, screwed the ball back and the Chilean striker sent his reflex shot wide.

Canizares was soon back in action as Conceicao smacked in a searing drive from deep inside the area which the Valencia keeper punched away in the 35th minute.

The Spaniards were on the ropes and struggling to even clear the ball, let alone mount a counter-attack, and earned them a respite only at the half-time whistle.



Lazio's star playmaker Juan Veron (C) locked in a tussle with Miguel Angel Angelo (L) during their Champions League semifinal second leg at Rome.

scored more goals, because we created a lot of chances. And the team had a great game. But unfortunately, we lost it in the first leg in Valencia."

The Spaniards showed their trademark sharpness and one-touch football moving forward but the first real threat came in the eighth minute when Lazio's Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved smacked a half-volley wide.

Urged on by the home crowd, Lazio started to haul themselves back into the match and

their defence finally admitted defeat six minutes and five seconds after the break when Veron took possession and smacked an unstoppable shot into the top right-hand corner.

Substitute Simone Inzaghi kept up the pressure minutes later with a looping header which Canizares tipped over the bar.

But it should have been 2-0 in the 59th minute when the overlapping Conceicao was given a free shot from a dozen

Premiership top guns get top sums

LONDON, April 19: English Premiership footballers earn an average of more than 400,000 pounds (630,000 dollars) a year,

reports AFP.

A survey of professional footballers discovered the average pay for Premiership players above the age of 20 is 409,000 pounds a year, or nearly 8,000 pounds a week.

And there are thought to be about 100 Premiership players earning over one million pounds a year in basic pay - which does not include endorsements and sponsorship deals.

Around four times as many, 36 percent of players aged 20 and over, earn more than 500,000 pounds a year.

The independent survey, carried out in conjunction with the PFA - the players' union - attracted nearly 600 confidential responses from players and were sent to every professional in the country.

It also revealed the highest-earning age bracket in the top flight is 27 and 28-year-olds, who make 572,000 pounds a year on average, with 16 percent of this age group earning more than a million.

At the other end of the scale, young players and trainees aged between 17 and 20 earn between 19,000 pounds and 45,000 pounds a year.

But the high pay levels at the top end of the game are not matched in the lower divisions. Senior First Division pro-

fessionals earn an average 128,000 pounds a year, but the figure falls to 52,000 pounds and 37,000 pounds in the Second and Third Divisions respectively.

Of all non-Premiership players who responded to the survey, 65 percent agreed wages were the major factor in the financial problems clubs are experiencing. The figure was 47 percent in the top flight.

The pay imbalance between the leagues does little more than reflect the way football economics have shifted since the formation of the Premiership in 1992.

The top clubs' income has soared and, with a lucrative television deal to be agreed this year, it is likely to grow further.

Popescu speaks of death threats

LEEDS, April 19: Galatasaray players were subjected to death threat from English fans before Thursday night's crucial UEFA Cup semi-final second leg match at Elland Road, the club's Romanian international Gheorghe Popescu claimed Wednesday, reports AFP.

"Club headquarters were receive dozens of faxes and e-mails daily from England threatening to kill us if we come to Leeds," Popescu told the daily ProSport newspaper.

"There's more talk now about our safety than the match. Our families are worried," said the 32-year-old Galatasaray defender.

Galatasaray fear reprisals following the stabbings of Leeds fans Kevin Speight and Chris Loftus the day before the UEFA Cup semi-final first leg in Istanbul nearly two weeks ago. Four Turks have formally been charged with murder.

Describing the deaths as "regrettable" Popescu added: "We were on the pitch and not on the streets."

Italy in grief

ROME, Apr 19: Italy swallowed the news Wednesday that the semifinals of the European soccer cups will be Italian-free for the first time in 13 years, following Lazio's elimination from the Champions League, reports AP.

"Lazio showed heart, but it's farewell," was the Gazzetta dello Sport daily's headline after the Rome club managed only a 1-0 win Tuesday night against Valencia, following the Spanish club's 5-2 victory in the first leg earlier this month.

Lazio's exit follows the elimination of a total of five Italian teams in the fourth round of the UEFA Cup and Champions League competitions, leaving the proud and rich soccer nation out of the semifinals of European play for the first time since 1986-87.

It is also the first time in eight years that Italy is without a semifinalist in the Champions League.

This will be a time for reflection, or maybe something more: a deep analysis, a revision of our habits, of our inherent vices," said Gazzetta.

Italian teams had won the last two UEFA Cups (Parma and Internazionale), and eight of the last eleven, as well as three of the last ten Champions Cups.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

PARIS, April 19 (AFP): European Champions League quarter-final, second leg results on Tuesday:

At Barcelona
Barcelona (Spa) 3 (Rivaldo 25, Figo 45, Dani 83) Chelsea (Eng) 1 (Figo 60)

Aggregate score 4-4 - extra time being played

At Rome
Lazio (Ita) 1 (Veron 50) Valencia (Spa) 0

Valencia win 5-3 on aggregate

Things look bright to Zidane

SAINT-DENIS, France, April 19: French star playmaker Zinedine Zidane of Italian giants Juventus declared Tuesday he was "very confident" about France's chances of winning Euro2000 while at the Stade de France to launch a football game here on Tuesday.

"I am very confident for Euro 2000 even if the tournament comes at the end of a long and difficult season," said the World Cup winner and 1998 World Player of the Year.

"The only way to win is to be ready right from the kick-off like at the World Cup. We must prepare properly, rest, and above all give everything in each match."

When asked about his fitness, the man who scored two first-half goals during France's 3-0 thrashing of Brazil in the 1998 World Cup final said: "I am fit and back on form. I hope that our superb season at Juve will be rewarded by the Italian Championship. (Juventus are currently five points clear of Lazio at the top of the league)."

Zidane who missed the recent 2-0 victory in a friendly against Scotland claimed his absence from the match was just a precaution. "I could have gone but it wasn't reasonable. I had a good rest and everything is perfect now," he added.

Zidane also spoke about troubled compatriot Nicolas Anelka who has drifted in and out of the French squad.

"Nicolas realized his dream too soon. If he could have expressed himself freely at Paris St. Germain, he could have gone on to prove himself and develop into the player everyone ex-

pects," said Zidane.

"He is young and talented with enormous potential. The problem has been to integrate properly at a huge club like Real Madrid. But he has not lost his talent," added the former World player of the year.

The recent shock victory by amateur club Calais over outgoing French champions Bordeaux in the French Cup semi-final also drew a response from the mercurial midfielder.

"Some people could say it's ridiculous that amateurs beat a professional side, but I watched the game and on the night Calais played like pros! They beat a Bordeaux side who have been trying to get to the Cup fi-

nal for a long time. I congratulate them," Zidane said.

Zidane is set to make his international return for the friendly against Slovenia in Paris on April 26.

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Zinedine Zidane, Juventus' French superstar smiles during a media conference at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis on April 18.

West Yorkshire Police have advised Galatasaray supporters to stay away from Leeds, while the Turkish club announced they would be travelling with 11 members of an anti-terrorist squad.

Leeds trial Galatasaray, who won the first leg 2-0, before the Elland Road leg.