

Sport

Brazilian Marquinho for Leverkusen

LEVERKUSEN, Germany, May 31: Midfielder Marquinho will add to the Brazilian contingent at Bundesliga club Bayer Leverkusen next season after joining the Champions League hopefuls on a deal worth eight million marks (3.5 million dollars), the club announced Tuesday, reports AFP.

Coach Christophe Daum has added the 19-year-old to an already strong squad that features fellow Brazilians Ze Roberto, Robson Ponte, Paulo Rink and Emerson.

Leverkusen missed out on their first Bundesliga title last season when they lost their last game handing the title to rivals Bayern Munich on goal difference.

King's men may come to India

CALCUTTA, May 31: Some members of the South African Commission of Inquiry probing match-fixing allegations against former skipper Hansie Cronje are likely to visit India in connection with the investigation, the country's high commissioner in India, Maite Nkomo-Mashabane, indicated yesterday, reports PTI.

Some members of the King Commission may visit India when the need arises," Mashabane told newspapers here when asked whether the members of the commission had plans to come to India.

The five-member commission, headed by retired South African Judge Edwin King, would submit its report by the end of next month.

Bridge tourney Sports Reporter

A daylong world wide bridge tournament commences at a city hotel on June 2.

The Pair bridge competition, to be played on instant scoring basis, will start at 4pm. The Bangladesh Bridge Federation is organising the meet in co-operation with the World Bridge Federation. Interested players have been asked to contact the joint secretary of the federation to complete their entry formalities before 3pm of Friday.

Bacher

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plying that concept to cricket. He is expected to put a proposal to this effect at next month's meeting of the International Cricket Council.

A one-day tournament is envisaged, and would be something sought for some time by administrators at provincial level to boost interest in the game at this level.

The Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg is earmarked to stage the tournament in September, this being a relatively 'dead' month in the cricketing calendar.

If an Australian side is present, there is a good chance it will be Queensland, the first-class champions, rather than Western Australia, the one-day champions.

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Second Test

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win to square the series, both men could play, especially as the Trent Bridge pitch has been a seamers' paradise in recent seasons.

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Lancashire leg-spinner Chris Schofield didn't bowl a ball on his Test debut and so should get a second chance, particularly as the England attack looks lopsided without him.

Zimbabwe's history as a Test nation can be summed up by the old adage 'cricket makes fools of the wisest'. Still it's hard to see how, even allowing for the positive effect of wounded pride, they can win this Test. Hard but not impossible.

One consolation for Zimbabwe, whatever the result, is that they cannot possibly play any worse than they did at Lord's.

Barthez joins Man. United

Chelsea get Hasselbaink



UNDATED, May 31 (AFP): Chelsea roped in one of the hottest properties in Europe after Dutch international striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink reportedly agreed to join the Premiership side on Wednesday. Meanwhile French international custodian Fabien Barthez also completed a move to the Premiership after signing for champions Manchester United.

HASSELBAINK BACK IN THE PREMIERSHIP

MADRID: Hasselbaink moved from Atletico Madrid of the Primera Liga to the FA Cup winners Chelsea. His Spanish club announced Wednesday.

Details of the transfer were not released although a club spokesman said the offer of 24 million dollars from the London-based club was the best of numerous offers for the highly rated striker.

Hasselbaink joined Madrid who were relegated this season after 64 years in the top flight from another English club Leeds last season for 19 million dollars and was a huge hit in the Primera Liga, scoring 35 goals in 47 matches.

The Dutchman was also a success at Leeds where he notched 34 goals in just 69 appearances, after joining them from Boavista of Portugal with whom he scored 20 goals in 29 matches.

BARTHEZ NOW MAN UNITED'S

MANCHESTER: French international goalkeeper Fabien Barthez Wednesday signed for English champions Manchester United, the club said.

Details of the contract will be released at a press conference to be held at Old Trafford at 1500 GMT.

The 28-year-old Barthez played for French league champions Monaco last season, but had grown increasingly restless and had strongly indicated he wanted a move.

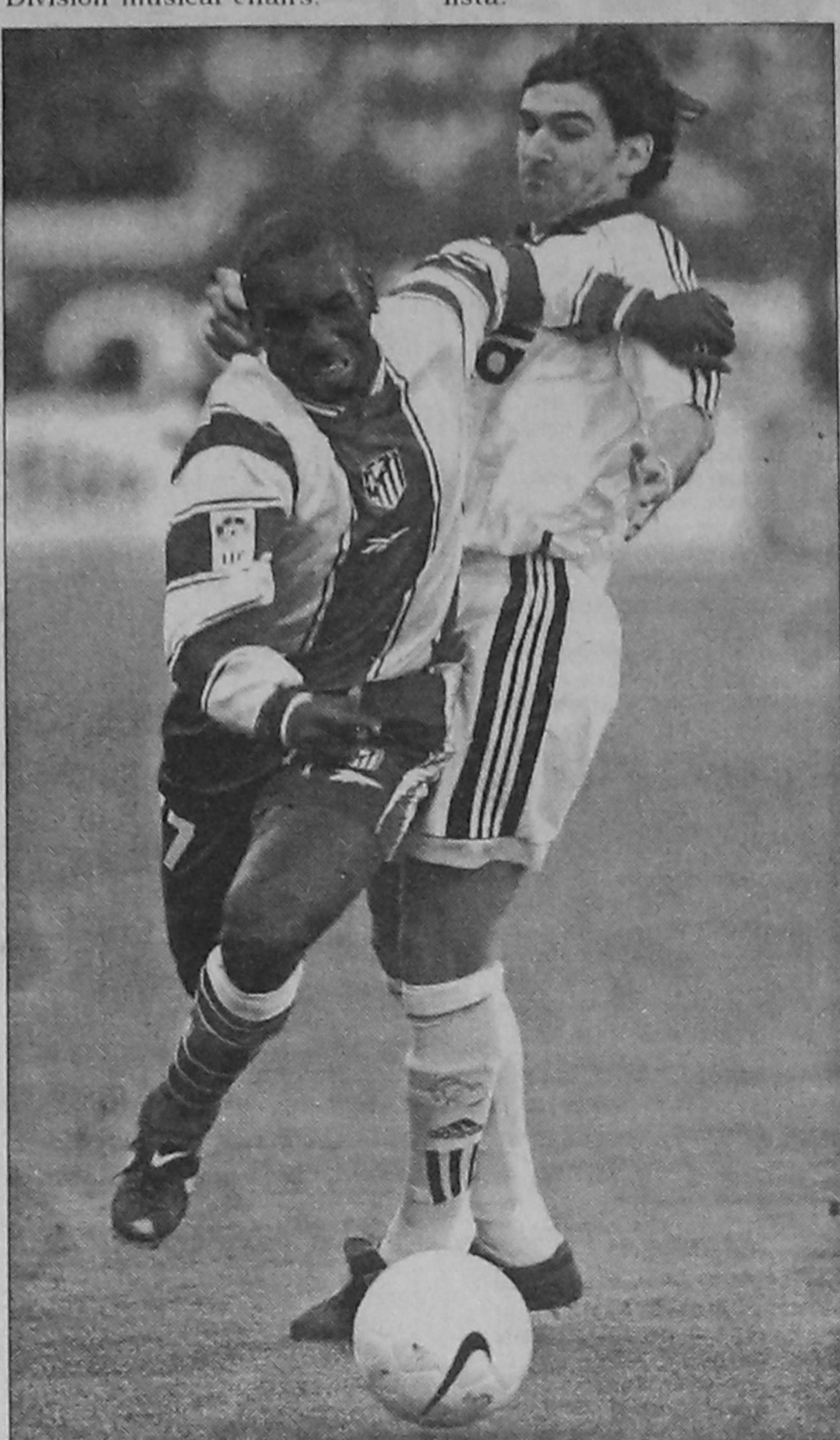
Press reports had said that the transfer fee could be around 15 million dollars which would be a world record for a goalkeeper.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson, trying to solve his side's goalkeeping problems, had twice attempted to lure the shaven-headed stopper to Old Trafford this season only to be knocked back in his approaches.

But Barthez's relations with Monaco have deteriorated in recent weeks, with club coach Claude Puel attacking his attitude in an end-of-season clash against former club Marseille.

The move for Barthez, who conceded only two goals as France won the World Cup on home soil two years ago, puts a huge question mark over the future of current keeper Mark Bosnich.

The Barthez move could also trigger a game of French First Division musical chairs.



An AFP file photo of Dutch international striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink in action for Atletico Madrid. The star striker has reportedly joined English FA Cup champions Chelsea.

Forget about buying Figo, Rivaldo

BARCELONA, May 31: Outgoing President Josep Lluís Núñez of Spanish giants Barcelona said Wednesday that superstar Rivaldo of Brazil and Figo of Portugal will not be sold because no-one can afford them, reports AFP.

"Rivaldo has a clause preventing him from being sold for less than 168 million dollars while Figo can only be bought for 112 million dollars," Núñez told radio station Com Radio.

"The fans can relax, they can't leave Barcelona," Núñez added.

Since the announcement of Núñez' resignation a number of clubs have shown an interest in World footballer of the Year Rivaldo and his teammate Figo but both players have stated their desire to stay at Barca.

Concerning a possible change in the status of the two players' contracts, Núñez replied: "I will not take any decisions which may affect the new management or the financial status of FC Barcelona".

Núñez has spent 22 years at the head of Barcelona and his successor will be elected at the end of July.

International friendly Scotland edge Republic of Ireland

DUBLIN, May 31: Craig Brown's depleted Scotland came back from Mark Kennedy's deflected second-minute goal to beat an experimental Republic of Ireland side with strikes from Don Hutchison and Barry Ferguson here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

It was a deserved success for the Scots who will not play again until their first World Cup qualifier against Latvia in Riga in September.

Having seen his team go down in front of more than 30,000 fans at Lansdowne Road, Irish boss Mick McCarthy must now contemplate a three-match tour of America later this week.

He will again be without a string of his first-choice performers and will want to see more emerging from their deputies who puffed and puffed their way through this friendly but failed to make a real impact.

Both managers fielded what amounted to B teams at the end of another long season. But that certainly did not seem to worry the fans, especially the 3,000-odd members of the Tartan Army who converged on Dublin.

Moroccan team for Hassan II tourney

RABAT, May 31 (AFP): Moroccan squad for Hassan II friendly tournament, which runs from June 4-6, announced on Friday (France, Japan and Jamaica are other competing nations).

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Khalid Fouahmi (Dynamo Bucharest/Rom), Karim Zaza (FC Copenhagen/Den) Abderrafie Gassi (FAR Rabat)

Defenders: Noureddine Naybet (capt, Deportivo La Coruna/Spa), Talal El Karkouri (Paris Saint Germain/Fra), Jamal Sellami (Besiktas/Tur), Abdelmalik Ouadoud (Nancy/Fra), Mohamed Bechir (Widad Casablanca), Akram Roumani (Moghreb Fez), Salaheddine Sibouh (Fath Rabat), Lahcen Abrami (Gentclerbrigi/Tur)

Midfielders: Abdellah Saber (Sporting Lisbon/Port), Youssef Mariana (Chabab Riyad/Ksa), Mustapha Hadji (Coventry/Eng), Adil Ramzi (Willem II Tilburg/Ned) Mourad Hossou (Fath Rabat), Otman el Assias (Olympic Khouribga)

Forwards: Abdeljalil Hadda (Sporting Gijon/Spa), Salaheddine Basir (Deportivo La Coruna/Spa), Hicham Zerouali (Aberdeen/Scot)

Illgner staying at Real

MADRID, May 31: German international goalkeeper Bodo Illgner confirmed Tuesday he wants to stay at Real Madrid next season despite a disappointing season plagued by injuries, reports AFP.

"It was a peculiar season as I was out of action for four months which is a long time," Illgner told journalists.

Illgner who suffered from injuries to both his shoulder and knee claimed he had not received any offers from German clubs but was happy to stay at Madrid where competition for the keepers jersey is very competitive.

Spanish youngster Iker Casillas was a key member in Real's drive to the Champions League title although Argentine Albano Bizarri looks set to leave after Real's signing of Spain's Cesar Sanchez Dominguez from Valladolid.

"I am on top form, I believe I'll play," declared the 33-year-old Illgner who played in West Germany's victory in the 1990 World Cup as well as the successful German side at the 1996 European championships.

Illgner was left out of Germany's Euro 2000 squad but according to the Spanish press has been linked with a possible move to former club Cologne, Borussia Dortmund or Kaiserslautern.

Mega deal brings 'Batigol' to Rome



ROME, May 31: (AFP/Reuters): The transfer of flamboyant Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta from Serie A outfit Fiorentina to rivals AS Roma for 70 billion lire (33.6 million dollars) is the second highest transfer fee ever paid, reported the Italian press Wednesday.

The signing was revealed Tuesday in the Argentine press and confirmed later in the day by the player's agent Settimio Aloisio after negotiations in Buenos Aires that went late into the night.

The transfer fee falls 20 mil-

lion lire (9.6 million dollars) short of the 90 billion lire (43.2 million dollars) Inter Milan paid Lazio for Italian international Christian Viera last year.

The 31-year-old striker is set to earn over 12 billion lire (5.7 million dollars) a year but it is the end of Batistuta's nine-year love affair with the Fiorentina fans.

Batistuta, who joined Fiorentina in 1991 from Argentine side Boca Juniors.

The star striker, once voted one of the sports sexiest male athletes, is in Buenos Aires preparing for his country's World Cup qualifier on Sunday against Bolivia.

Giving his reaction to the transfer, Batistuta vowed to deliver in goals what Roma plans to pay him in cash.

"I don't know if I'll be the best paid player in the world, I only want to join a winning team and I'll deliver goals for Roma," Batistuta told reporters at the Etoile Hotel in Buenos Aires' exclusive Recoleta Barrio.

"I'm surprised and feel proud that they're paying so much money for me, I'm 31...but they bought my goals and I hope to deliver what they contracted me for," he added.

Inter Milan, who qualified for next season's Champions league last week, and new Italian champions Lazio, Roma's city rivals, also tried to woo Batistuta.

"In the short term, Roma could be the team that puts me in the ideal conditions to deliver my maximum in the final years of my career," Batistuta said.

"I've spoken a lot with (Roma president) Franco Sensi and he provided me with some of the details (coach) Fabio Capello is planning and they're betting heavily on winning a championship, just like I am," he said, adding, "because playing for Fiorentina I couldn't reach that goal."

Batistuta had spent nine years playing for Italian Serie A side Fiorentina, scoring 168 goals in 269 league appearances to break the club record set by Swede Kurt Hamrin in the 1950s.

The former Boca player, a cross-town rival of River Plate, said he was eager to take part in the rivalry with Lazio in Rome.

"Playing against Lazio will be something beautiful, something you see in few parts of the world...something like a River Plate-Boca match," he said.

Batistuta said he did not plan to return to Florence for a farewell but added that he will miss the team he joined from Boca Juniors in 1991 for 2.3 million dollars, which will be in my heart."

Terim parts with Galatasaray



ISTANBUL, May 31: The coach of UEFA Cup winners Galatasaray Fatih Terim said Tuesday he would leave the Turkish giants next season after hammering out a one-year contract with Italian Serie A outfit Fiorentina, reports AFP.

"We will sign the contract on Thursday. We will re-evaluate it in January and the possibility for an extension is open," Terim told reporters here after talks with Fiorentina officials in Rome on Monday and Tuesday.

"I will continue my career in Italy as Turkey's soccer ambassador," an emotional Terim said.

"It is not easy to express my feelings now. It is like leaving a child, but I made this decision," said the coach, rendered national hero earlier this month when Galatasaray won the UEFA Cup.

By beating English Premier-ship club Arsenal on penalties in Copenhagen on May 17, Galatasaray became the first Turkish club to lift a major European trophy.

A former Galatasaray defender and national team coach, Terim has long criticized Galatasaray's administration for poor management, which has led to financial hardships and delays in the payment of players' wages.

Terim's four-year contract, with the Istanbul outfit, which won its fourth consecutive league title this year, ends Wednesday.

"It is very important to be somebody preferred in Italy, one of the world's leading soccer countries, and in Fiorentina, one of the world's most important clubs," Terim said.

He added that he believed he would be successful in Italy, saying it was one of the toughest

soccer leagues in the world.

Terim played down rumors that he would take with him leading Galatasaray players including star striker Hakan Sukur.

The coach said his absence would not have a negative impact on Galatasaray's future performance.

"Our success is the result of teamwork. Nobody should give in to pessimism, because there is no reason for the failure of this team, which has won the praise of everybody," he said.

As national coach, Terim led the Turks in 1996 to their first-ever qualification for the European championship finals after which he took over Galatasaray to lead them through one of their most glorious periods.

Terim played as Galatasaray defender between 1976 and 1988 and earned 71 international appearances for Turkey.

Rookie's reminder for Zoff



BRATISLAVA, May 31: AC Milan midfielder Gennaro Gattuso, left out of Dino Zoff's Italy squad for Euro 2000, has responded with some sterling performances in the European Under-21 Championship in Bratislava.

Proving why he is considered one of Italy's brightest hopes for the future, reports Reuters.

Zoff's mind is currently focused on preparing his squad for the Netherlands and Belgium but when he, his successor, look to rebuild the squad after this summer's competition it is likely that Gattuso will be one of the first names on the list.

The 22-year-old, who made his debut in the full Italy team against Sweden in February, is keen to play down any talk of feeling let down by his absence from Zoff's squad and believes his time will come.

"I am not disappointed. I am 22-years-old and have at least seven or eight years to play in the national team. At the moment they are looking for experience," he told Reuters from the Under-21 team training camp in Slovakia.

Gattuso was instrumental in

Italy's 2-0 win over England on Saturday and then gave a characteristically battling performance against Slovakia's dangerous left-wing back Vratislav Gresko in Monday's 1-1 draw with the hosts.

Should Italy go on to win the championship there is no doubt that Gattuso, along with Inter Milan playmaker Andrea Piroli, Reggina midfielder Roberto Baroni and Vicenza striker Gianni Comandini, will play an important role.

For a country that prides itself on technically gifted players - light-footed playmakers, elegant sweepers and quick-witted strikers - Gattuso is an unusual hero.

Operating on the right flank his strengths are to be found in aggressive tackling and the kind of work rate more associated with northern European players.

"Gattuso has great character but he has also worked very hard to improve his technical ability," says Under-21 coach Marchi Tardelli. "Above all he has great determination and a huge desire to win."

Like many young Italian players, Gattuso initially found it difficult to break into Serie A where expensive foreign sign-

ings are increasingly dominant.

He made his top-flight debut for Perugia before making a surprise move to Scotland's Rangers in the summer of 1997.

He spent a season and a half at Ibrox Park before returning to Italy with Salernitana last year and when they were relegated to Serie B his future was uncertain.

But he joined AC Milan at the start of this season where coach Alberto Zaccheroni has finally given him his chance of regular first team football and he swiftly became a crowd favourite at the San Siro.

Having missed out on Euro 2000 Gattuso is setting his sights on the 2002 World Cup final in Japan and South Korea and believes the ambition of his club will go a long way to helping him achieve his personal goals.

"I have a chance to make the World Cup squad if I do well in the league next season. At Milan we didn't win anything this time and so next season we will be looking to win the Champions League or Serie A."

But for now Gattuso's mind is on Thursday's group game against Turkey where a win for Italy will ensure them a place in the Under-21 final.

Euro champions busy already



MADRID, May 31: Newly crowned European champions Real Madrid are not resting on their laurels as they look to strengthen their squad while trying to hold onto their current stars, reports AFP.

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they want for Makelele. It is certain that we won't be paying more than nine million dollars," said Real president Lorenzo Sanz.

"Obviously I want to play for Real but I must calmly evaluate all the offers that are currently on the table," Makelele told Spanish sports daily AS.

The 27-year-old began his career in France with Brest before stints with Nantes and Marseille before joining Celta Vigo in 1998 where his current contract expires in 2002.

As for Anelka and Morientes, Sanz says they are "not for sale" unless a club can come up with 40 million dollars.

"Today Morientes and Anelka are going nowhere but the world of football has gone mad and if someone comes up

WC 2002 qualifier Crespo pulls out of Argentina squad

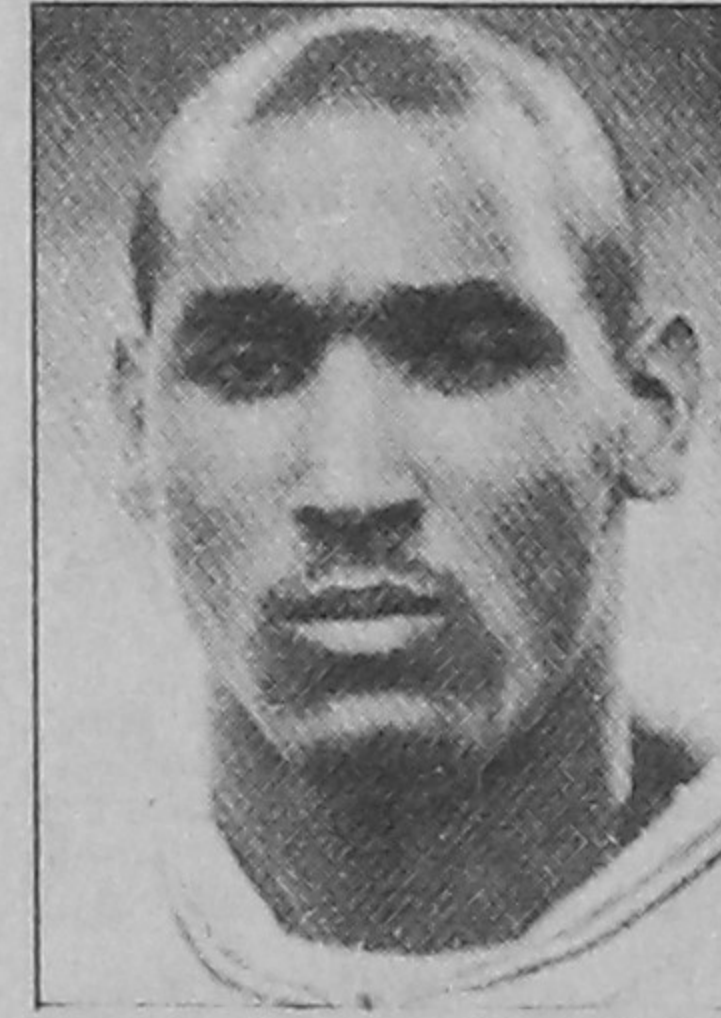
BUENOS AIRES, May 31: Argentine striker Hernan Crespo has pulled out of his country's World Cup 2002 qualifier against Bolivia here on Sunday after suffering an ankle injury, Argentina's football Federation announced Tuesday, reports AFP.

Crespo who plays for Serie A club Parma was ruled out by club doctors after going down with a twisted right ankle.

with 40 million dollars, I would let the player go and bank the money," added Sanz.

"Anelka showed us at the end of the season that he is a great player and what he is capable of. In France he is always wanted by other clubs but nothing is certain," said Sanz.

One player who could be on



NICOLAS ANELKA

his way out of Madrid is Spanish international Fernando Hierro who has attracted the interest of Serie A giants AS Roma and coach Fabio Capello.

No official offer has been made but the clubs have been talking and the 32-year-old defender could be the next arrival in Rome after Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta signed a three-year deal Tuesday from Fiorentina.

EURO 2000 BRIEFS



UNDATED, May 31 (Reuters): Euro 2000 briefs on Tuesday: **GERMANY BLANK MALLORCA**

PALMA DE MALLORCA: Paulo Rink scored two late goals for Germany to put the gloss on a 4-0 victory over Real Mallorca in a tough Euro 2000 warm-up match on Tuesday.

Erich Ribbeck's side, cheered on by a predominantly German crowd of around 14,000 in Mallorca's San Moix stadium, took the lead on 25 minutes as Carsten Jancker hooked in a long ball out of defence that had caught the home team off guard.

The Germans created few other chances in the opening half, however, as a Mallorca

side missing four key players more than held their own.

A fine second goal followed 12 minutes into the second half, though, as Dariusz Wozniak finished off a neat midfield move instigated by Liverpool's Dietmar Hamman.

Germany continued to work hard and were rewarded with two goals in the final few minutes.

Rink's first was a fine solo effort as he raced half the length of the field to slot past Leo Franco, and the Bayer Leverkusen striker rounded off the scoring with a powerful header just before the final whistle.

REDKNAPP, PARLOUR OUT

LONDON: Midfield duo Jamie Redknapp of Liverpool and Ray Parlour of Arsenal have been ruled out of England's Euro 2000 squad through injury, the FA said on Tuesday.

Parlour damaged knee ligaments in the closing stages of England's 1-1 draw with Brazil on Saturday while Redknapp, whose career has been blighted



REDKNAPP

by injury, also has a knee problem.

The two had been included in coach Kevin Keegan's provisional 28-man squad but replacements are unlikely to be named.

The final 22 will be named after today's Wembley friendly against Ukraine.



Iker Casillas, the highly impressive 19-year-old custodian of Real Madrid, in training with the Spanish national team at Valencia yesterday. The national squad is preparing for the European Championship beginning June 10.