

PSG stumble in Rosenborg

ROSENBOURG, Norway, Sept. 14: Norwegian champions Rosenborg came from a goal behind to pick up a valuable points and French international Nicolas Anelka.

PSG opened the scoring after just seven minutes when Laurent Robert broke down the left and crossed perfectly into the path of French international Nicolas Anelka.

Anelka saw his shot blocked by the Rosenborg keeper Ami Arason but Brazilian Christian was perfectly positioned to tuck home the rebound and give the Parisians a well deserved lead.

Then on 18 minutes a cross from the left into the PSG area caused panic leading to a flick on header from centre forward Frode Johnsen which Orjan Berg headed goalward.

PSG keeper Lionel Letizi flew to his left and got a hand to the ball but could not prevent it going in off the right-hand post for the Norwegian equaliser.

Rosenborg got their winner with just under half an hour to go, when Jan Derek Sorensen got past PSG defender Frederic Dehu with a beautiful flick move to break into the box.

His cross was inadvertently flicked on by Moroccan Talal El Karkouri right into the path of Johnsen who made no mistake with his header with the PSG goal wide open and unguarded.

Deep into injury time, the Norwegian wrapped up the points with a penalty.

PSG defender Sylvain Distin clumsily brought down Sorensen giving the referee no other option than to point to the spot.

Bent Skammelsrud made no mistake sending Letizi the wrong way to wrap up the scoring and continue the Parisian's dismal away form.

Soccer goes

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JAPAN - 2, S AFRICA - 1

In the other match in the pool Japan came from behind to defeat South Africa 2-1.

Naohiro Takahara's double cancelled out Siyabonga Nomvethe's opener to give the Japanese, coached by former South Africa coach Philippe Troussier, a perfect start.

CHILE - 4, MOROCCO - 1

In Pool B Inter Milan striker Zamorano won the individual plaudits as he killed the game with three clinical strikes after 36, 45 and 55 minutes including a penalty before winning another spot-kick and muscled in the winning goal.

Moroccan substitute El Houssaine Ouchla then grabbed a consolation seven minutes later.

The North Africans had been handicapped for almost all the match when they were reduced to 10 men in the opening minutes.

Defender Abel Chbouki committed a crude tackle from behind that left David Pizarro needing treatment on the touchline for several minutes.

Kuwaiti referee Saad Kameel Mane brandished the red card as players from both teams squared up to each other in anger.

Chile took the lead out of the blue after 36 minutes when Pizarro floated a long ball into the box and Navia headed the ball across to an unmarked Zamorano who headed home.

In first-half injury time that margin was doubled when Zamorano converted a penalty after Mohamed Kharbouch committed an infringement in the box.

Zamorano completed his hat-trick after 55 minutes.

Again it was Navia who was the instigator, outpacing the Moroccan defence before cutting the ball back to the Inter Milan man who could hardly miss.

The fourth goal was another embarrassment for the defence with Navia playing in Zamorano who was unceremoniously bundled over by Moroccan substitute Othmane Ellassas.

This time Zamorano stood aside and let Navia take the penalty and the baby-faced youngster converted with aplomb.

Zamorano then departed the scene, replaced by Sebastian Gonzalez.

Belatedly Morocco produced their best football with Elmoubaraki just missing the target after a scintillating run before Ouchla scored, heading home a Safri freekick.

SPAIN - 3, S KOREA - 0

Spain were equally emphatic in the other Group B match with a first-half goal blitz which saw their opponent's defence slashed to ribbons.

Captain Toni Velamazán of Espanyol opened the rout on 10 minutes, controlling a ball on his head before unleashing a ferocious 25-yard volley into Korean keeper Kim Yong-Dae's net.

Buoyed by the early strike the Spaniards kept up the attacking tempo and on 26 minutes the Korean defence was breached again.

Jose Mari cut inside from the left-flank, wrong-footed defender Park Dong-Hyuk and thumped in a thunderous shot from eight yards out to make it 2-0.

Xavi completed the first half scoring on 37 minutes after good work by Real Mallorca's Raul Tamudo on the left wing. Tamudo ran to the byline and whipped in a low cross which deflected off an upright into the path of Xavi, who smashed a rising strike into the roof of the net for 3-0.

Man United drub Anderlecht



MANCHESTER, England, Sept. 14: Manchester United easily beat Anderlecht of Belgium 5-1 in their opening Group G Champions League match here on Wednesday with international striker Andy Cole bagging a hat-trick, reports AFP.

As soon as the 1999 Champions League winners took the lead through Cole in the 15th minute the result was never in doubt and they were 3-0 up at half-time.

United's first goal was a model of simplicity. Wales international Ryan Giggs crossed from the left and Cole timed his run perfectly to head past Belgium international goalkeeper Filip de Wilde with Anderlecht defenders appealing for a non-existent offside decision.

Cole's goal, his 15th in the competition, saw him overtake Scotland great Denis Law as United's leading European Cup scorer.

Giggs was causing the Anderlecht defence plenty of problems with his direct runs down the left-hand side.

It was just such a break that led to United's second, Giggs' run into the box ended only when defender Patrick van Dieën brought him down.

From the inevitable penalty Republic of Ireland defender Denis Irwin scored in the 32nd minute, although De Wilde got a hand to the shot as he dived to his left. It was United's 200th European Cup goal.

Then three minutes before the break England forward Teddy Sheringham added United's third.

Beckham crossed from the right and the unmarked Sheringham's first-time shot was well-saved by the diving De Wilde but the unlucky goalkeeper could do nothing about the follow-up.

Anderlecht did produce the occasional chance. Didier Dieedene's 25-yard free-kick forced Fabien Barthez to make an uncomfortable save.

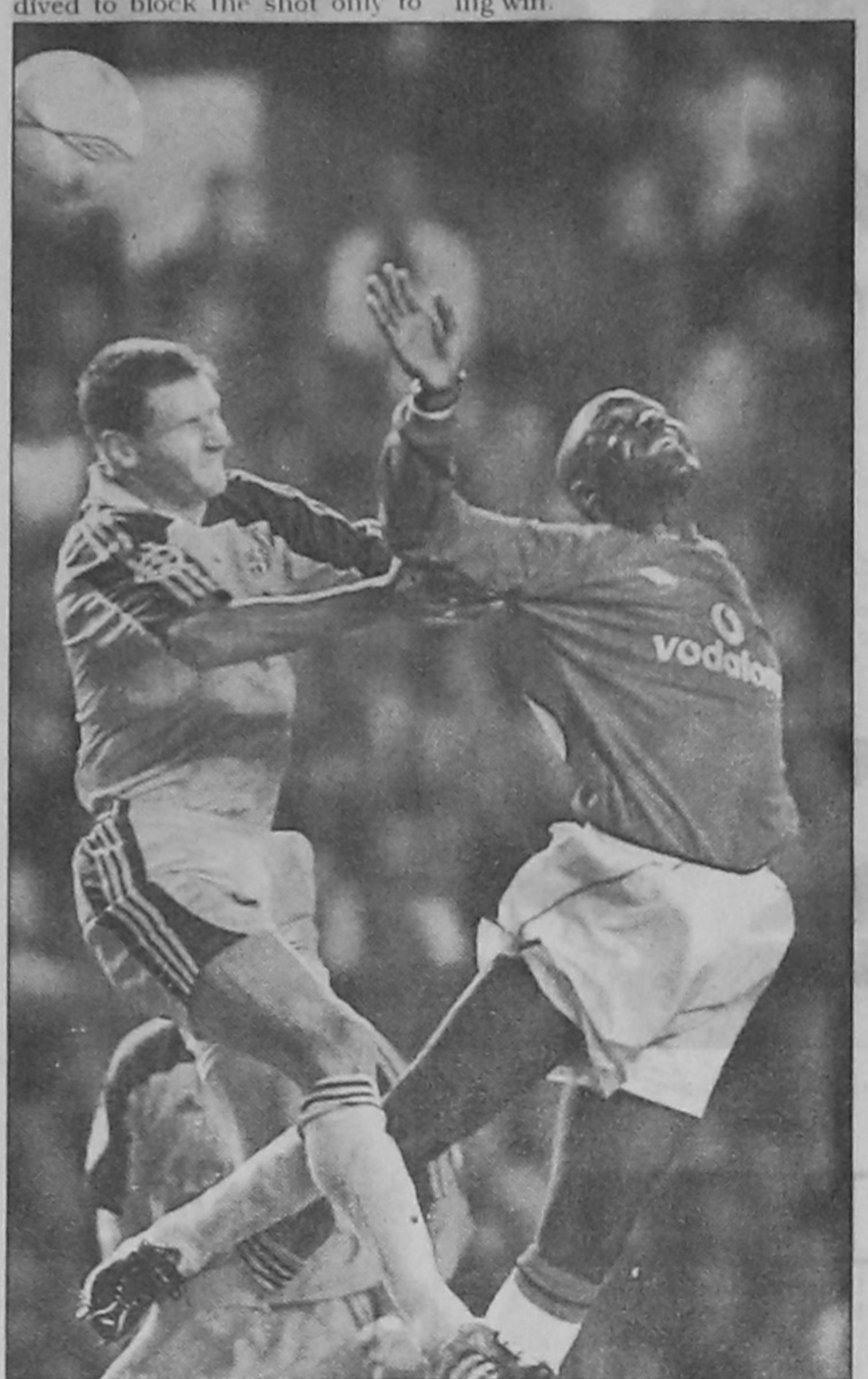
United's French World Cup and Euro 2000 star was then in action just before the interval saving from Tomasz Radzinski.

with his legs. A defensive mix-up saw 36-year-old Lorenzo Staelens knock Giggs through ball into Cole's path for the striker's second goal four minutes after half-time.

Giant Czech striker Jan Koller managed a consolation strike for Anderlecht. He rounded Barthez but the keeper dived to block the shot only to

deflect it into the net in the 50th minute. It was the first goal Barthez had conceded at Old Trafford but was soon forgotten by the fans as Cole completed his hat-trick.

From Beckham's cross, the ex-Newcastle star looped a header over De Wilde in the 72nd minute to seal a convincing win.



Manchester United's Andy Cole (R) is locked in an aerial tussle with Anderlecht's Walter Bassegio during Champions' League fixture at Old Trafford on September 13. —AFP photo

Juve-Hamburg share a stunner



HAMBURG, Germany, Sept. 14: A hat-trick by Italian striker Filippo Inzaghi saved Juventus Turin from defeat against former German giants Hamburg Wednesday in the Champions League with the last of his goals ensuring a 4-4 draw, reports AFP.

Hamburg rose to the occasion in their Champions League debut and bridged a two-goal deficit at one point to take a 4-3 lead. But Hamburg's courageous comeback was thwarted by a foolish error from Bosnian forward Sergej Barbarez who needlessly tugged on Inzaghi's shirt in the area and conceded the 88th-minute spot kick.

"It was totally unnecessary, the rules are very clear. We have no reason to complain," Hamburg coach Frank Pagelsdorf said after the match.

I am both happy and annoyed. It is of course a great performance to turn a 1-3 into a 4-3 against Juventus and totally dominate the game. I am totally annoyed though by the

penalty. "I have no idea where anyone would get the idea to pull an opponent's shirt in that kind of situation. I will have to have a few words with him."

Barbarez's recklessness cost the Germans a historic victory but it took nothing away from their gutsy showing. They were very much Juventus' equals and astounding in their forward drive, refusing to say die even when things were running against them on the scoreboard.

The Italian visitors took an early lead when Juventus defender Igor Tudor scored with a header on six minutes but Tony Yeboah equalised just 10 minutes later when he was left to totally unmarked during a Rodolfo Cardoso free kick.

Amid long passages of high speed and entertaining football with a plethora of chances on both sides star Juventus striker Filippo Inzaghi appeared to kill off Hamburg when he struck twice in the 36th and 52nd minutes to give them a 3-1 lead.

Juventus tired though and the home side, fired on by a sold-out 48,500 crowd, pulled themselves back into the match with aggressive drives forward. Rarely does a side get as many obvious chances to score against Juventus but Hamburg were sloppy in converting them.

Their reward finally came in the 65th minute when Iranian forward Mehdi Mahdavi pushed home the ball from a metre out while on his hands and knees and then was chopped down in the area five minutes later.

Goalkeeper Hans-Jorg Butt, famous in the Bundesliga for never missing a spot kick, converted. Encouraged by Juventus' falling fitness Hamburg delivered what seemed to be a death blow when Mahdavi fired a low cross into a crowd of players in front of the goal.

The ball travelled straight to Nico Kovac who swatted what could have been the winner. It ought to have been until Sergej Barbarez's colossal shirt-pulling blunder and Inzaghi's equaliser.

Bayern ease past Helsingborg



HELSINGBORG, Sweden, Sept. 14: Ten-man Bayern Munich had an average evening form-wise but it was still sufficient to beat Swedish champions Helsingborgs 3-1 in their group F European Champions League encounter on Wednesday night, reports AFP.

Defender Sammy Kuffour was sent off in the 38th minute for felling striker Alvaro Santos in the area as they both ran for an incoming high-ball. Munich keeper Oliver Kahn blocked the resulting penalty taken by Roland Nilsson.

"We failed to break Bayern's rhythm by missing our penalty," Helsingborgs coach Nanne Bergstrand said. "It would have been better if Bayern had carried on with 11 men because we had more trouble against 10 men than we did before the sending off."

Kahn said: "I was a bit lucky with the penalty because I am not a classic penalty killer. It was an important phase of the game for us though and we deserved to win."

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld was highly critical of English referee Graham Barber for doubly punishing his side after the incident.

"It's regrettable that referees

like that are allowed to be involved in the Champions League," Hitzfeld complained, "because a penalty plus a red card really was a bit much."

Bayern already had a 1-0 cushion though when Kuffour went off thanks to Mehmet Scholl's goal on seven minutes and were clearly the stronger of the two sides.

They only got into trouble twice more before the break when Bjorn Johnsen's 32nd minute header narrowly went to the right and Thorsten Fink blocked an Santos shot six

minutes later.

Despite Kuffour's absence - Ciriaco Sforza moved back into defence to plug the hole - Bayern extended their lead to 3-0 after the break through Hasan Salihamidzic (48th) and Carsten Jancker (55th).

Oliver Kahn left the field after 66 minutes because of a thigh injury incurred when Alvaro Santos slid into him and was replaced by reserve keeper Stefan Wessels.

Wessels let through Helsingborgs lone goal of the evening through Johnsen in injury time.



Barcelona's Brazilian megastar Rivaldo (C) trying to sneak the ball past his Leeds United marker Michael Duberry (R) during their Champions' League encounter at Nou Camp on September 13. —AFP photo

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

PARIS, Sept. 14: Champions League first phase results on Wednesday:

GROUP E

At Hamburg, Germany: SV Hamburg (Ger) 4 (Yeboah 17, Mahdavi 65, Butt 72, Kovac 82) Juventus (Ita) 4 (Tudor 6, Inzaghi 36, 52, 88-pen).

At Athens

Panathinaikos (Gre) 1 (Warzycha 29) Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 1 (Naybet 84).

GROUP F

At Trondheim, Norway: Rosenborg (Nor) 3 (Berg 18, F Johnson 62, Skammelsrud 92-pen) Paris Saint Germain (Fra) 1 (Christian 7).

At Helsingborg, Sweden

Helsingborgs (Swe) 1 (B Johnson 90) Bayern Munich (Ger) 3 (Scholl 7, Salihamidzic 48, Jancker 55).

GROUP G

At Eindhoven, Holland: PSV Eindhoven (Ned) 2 (Lucius 39, Bruggink 53) Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) 1 (Shatskiy 6).

At Manchester, England

Manchester United (Gbr) 5 (Cole 15, 50, 71, Irwin 21-pen, Sheringham 32) Anderlecht (Bel) 1 (Koller 55).

GROUP H

At Barcelona, Spain: Barcelona (Spa) 4 (Rivaldo 10, F De Boer 20, Kluivert 75, 84) Leeds (Eng) 0.

At Milan, Italy

AC Milan (Ita) 4 (Coco 36, Bierhoff 44, Shevchenko 47-pen, 77) Besiktas (Tur) 1 (Tayfur 20-pen).

Milan too good for Besiktas

MILAN, Sept. 14: The 1994 champions AC Milan came back from a goal down to win 4-1 at home to Turkish side Besiktas in a European Champions League first round Group H match, reports AFP.

The visitors took a surprise lead in the 20th minute when Teylor converted a penalty. However, thanks to goals by Francesco Coco, Oliver Bierhoff and two from Andrei Shevchenko, the Serie A giants ran out easy victors.

Leeds no match for Barca

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept. 14: Two second half goals in nine minutes from Patrick Kluivert gave this scoreline a realistic look after Barcelona hammered Leeds 4-0 in the European Champions League here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Leeds were perhaps fortunate to escape the first half trailing 2-0. Kluivert then stepped inside Michael Duberry to meet a Simao cross in the 75th minute, with Nigel Martyn only helping his shot on its way into the net.

Then nine minutes later the Dutch striker took a pass from Ivan de la Pena - on in the 84th minute for Dani - in his stride and after turning away from Leeds skipper Lucas Radebe delivered a scintillating strike.

To add to Leeds coach David O'Leary's worries, Radebe was taken off just before the finish after clattering into Duberry as they both went to meet a high ball.

It was clear the South African international was in trouble as he lay motionless for several minutes before eventually coming off with a brace around his neck. It was a sad end to a bitter experience for Leeds.

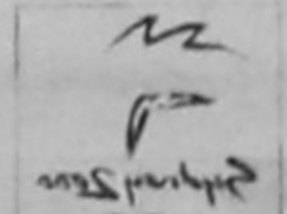
Before the match David O'Leary had told BBC radio five he felt that his team could well be in for a hiding at the Nou Camp.

Brazilian World player of the year added to the brace he bagged at the weekend on 10 minutes having dummied Leeds keeper Martyn.

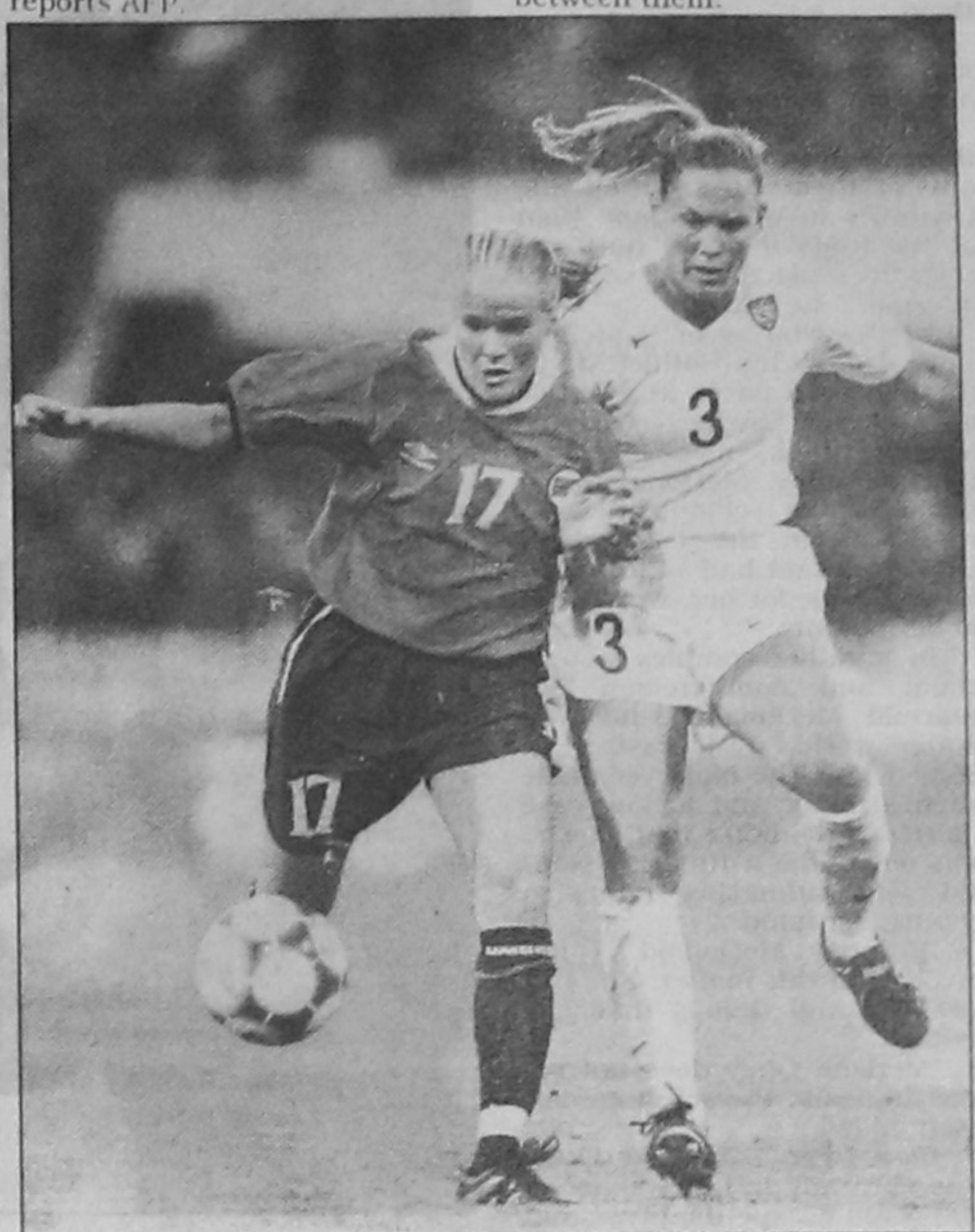
Frank De Boer hit Barcelona's second ten minutes later with a 30m free kick to confirm O'Leary's worst fears.

The scoreline could have been worse for Leeds who played a defensive line up with only one man up front but suffered continual Barcelona pressure, scrambling away several Barcelona chances.

Eves' top two sail in opener



SYDNEY, Sept. 14: The United States launched their defence of the Olympic women's football title Thursday with a 2-0 defeat of Norway, while Atlanta silver medalists China beat Nigeria 3-1, reports AFP.



Norwegian Boe Jensen (L) and American Christie Pearce are in pursuit of the ball during their Olympic Games women's Football match at the MCG yesterday. —AFP photo

The two countries, who also finished one-two in the inaugural women's World Cup, wasted no time in setting the tone for preliminary Group F.

The States had first-half goals from strike pairing Mia Hamm and Tiffany Milbrett and only the woodwork prevented Norway from suffering a much

Milbrett opened the scoring after 16 minutes, slotting the ball into an empty net after her original effort had been blocked by goalkeeper Bente Nordby.

"You never know if you're going to get one, so you just have to keep fighting hard," Milbrett said.

Seven minutes later Hamm -

- a veteran of 209 international games - doubled the lead with a crisp right-foot shot after springing the Norwegians' off-side trap.

The United States could have sewn up the match by the interval, but Milbrett fired wide after rounding Nordby before Hamm saw a curling effort from 20 meters rebound off the inside of the post.

Midway through the second-half Norwegian defender Gro Espeseth had to clear Julie Foudry's powerful shot off the line with Nordby well beaten.

A minute later Milbrett again tested the woodwork, with a stinging drive from outside the penalty box, before Kristine Lilly blazed the rebound wildly over the bar.

"USA are a very good team when they get scoring opportunities," said Norwegian manager Per-Mathias Hagmo, whose players failed to force US keeper Siri Mullinix into a real save in the entire match. "They certainly gave us a lesson today."

In Canberra, Chinese skipper Sun Wen showed why she is regarded as arguably the finest female player in the world with a brace of goals second-half goals.

The first came in the 57th, when Jin Yan lofted a sweetly flighted ball over a static Nigerian defence for Sun to dart in and hook a deft shot past keeper Anna Chieje.

In the 83rd minute, she curled in a textbook freekick from near the edge of the penalty area. Zhao Lihong had given China the lead in the 12th minute.

The third goal was the one that broke the camel's back," said Nigerian coach Ismaila Mabo.

Two minutes later Nigeria's Perpetua Nkwachukwu converted a late consolation penalty, but the match was lost.

Chinese coach Ma Yuanan was delighted with his team's performance and looking forward to taking on the United States on Sunday.

"China and the USA are at the same level. Whoever will have luck will do better," he said.



OLYMPIC WEDDING: Just-married American weightlifter Suzanne Leathers (L) and her coach-turned-husband Don McCauley (2nd from L) pose with the rest of the US weightlifting team members at the Bankstown Sports Club in Sydney yesterday. —AFP photo

First gold!

SYDNEY, Sept. 14: US weightlifter Suzanne Leathers took time out from training Thursday to marry coach Don McCauley on the eve of the Sydney Olympics, reports AFP.

Leathers, 52, met seven years ago when a friend of the groom introduced them because he thought she would be a good Olympic lifter.

The pair always knew their wedding was going to be unique, but didn't bank on 50 journalists and photographers tagging along.

"I fell in love with weightlifting and over the years I built up a very friendly relationship with my coach," said Leathers, among the women who for the first time will be able to compete in Olympic weightlifting.

Women's weightlifting coach Michael Cohen, who had the task of walking the bride down the aisle, said the media presence made everyone apprehensive.

"We come from a small community in Savannah (Georgia)," he said.

"We're not used to the big city and the cameras of this magnitude, we were a little bit taken by it but everything went smoothly."

The bride wore traditional white while the groom was in a tuxedo - a far cry from the trackuits and body hugging trunks used in competition.

Millions greet

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The hardluck absentee from the Games competition is Democratic Republic of Congo boxer Kakonga Jesus Kibande, counted out after missing his original flight and arriving in Sydney just hours after Thursday's weigh-in deadline.

But with the flame in Sydney, and fine weather forecast for the opening, the one thing remaining was to get a ticket.

That didn't become any easier when the man known as the "godfather of scalping", American Douglas Weinstein, was deported from Australia just hours after his arrival.

Corporate Games

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ber being held in prison. The thing that may now be most at odds with de Coubertin's Olympic vision, is the way many national Olympic committees - and sponsors - reward athletes with bonuses for winning medals.

According to Muller, de Coubertin - who once said "the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle" - saw medals as a reward for accomplishments and the money involved now takes away from that.

"That (the accomplishment) has to be the more important aspect," Muller said. "Not the money."

About the only thing de Coubertin would find familiar in the Olympics of today, Muller said, is the intrigue.

Much of the first decade of the 20th century, was taken up with often heated battles between the IOC and sports federations over jurisdiction, Muller said.

"The problems were the same as today," he said. "But the quality of the context and the money at play was very different."

And how would de Coubertin handle the task of rebuilding confidence in the Olympic movement as today's leaders are trying?

"He was a practical man," said his descendant, de Navacelle. "He would have put his hat on and started again."

Thorpedo

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Thorpe, Thorpe said. "No matter whether I go shopping or anything else, I always have to present myself as well as I would in an interview. Because people see the Ian Thorpe on television and want to have that kind of relationship with him."

Thorpe's maturity in dealing with his circumstances - he handled a controversy between his sponsor Adidas and Australian team sponsor Nike with diplomatic aplomb - only adds to his appeal.

"He's an astonishing boy," the veteran Talbot gushed after the trials. "I don't have too many more superlatives about him."

A Chinese puzzle

From page-17

the cloud hanging over weightlifting following several drug suspensions on leading lifters in recent days.

Taiwan's Chen Po-pu was sent home from Sydney after it was revealed he had tested positive for steroids during a dope test in Taipei last month.

Compatriots Chen Jui-lin, a world record holder and three time world champion in the women's 63kg class, and Wu Mei-yi were banned by the IWF for drug offences.

"I feel so ashamed," said Chang Chao-kuo, president of Taiwan's Weightlifting Association after Chen's departure was confirmed. "All our athletes will be under suspicion because of this."

The bad news for weightlifting, which has tried hard to clean up its act after several doping cases tarnished its reputation in the 1970s and 1980s, started last Friday with news that Czech Republic lifter Zbynek Vacura was stopped from travelling to Sydney after failing a drug test.

Sabrina

From page-17

in Moscow, 2000 while the Olympic record is 1:00.64 by Fred Deburghgrave of Belgium.

Teen-ager Doly Akhter will compete in her lone event 100m breast-stroke hits on September 17 (Sunday) at the same venue. Doly, starting her Olympic career with a timing of 1:26.78 minutes in the event, will compete with 45 swimmers divided in separate hit groups.

Sprinter Fauzia Huda will take to the track on the opening day of the athletic meet on September 22 in the 100m sprint at the Olympic Stadium. She has a timing of 12.10 seconds.

A total of 99 sprinters made entry in the event to take part in different hits.