AIBA claims fair Games

SYDNEY, Oct 2: The International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) found no evidence of corruption at the Sydney Olympics, where two referees were suspended, AIBA general secretary Loring Baker said Monday, reports AFP

Yugoslav Sreten Jabucanin and Russian Stanislav Kirsanov were suspended for four years following contentious decisions in favour of fighters from Kazakhstan. Baker, from Atlanta, said

Monday the federation had found no evidence of corruption but would welcome any proof of wrongdoing.

"If anyone has proof of such things, we'd love to have it, against anyone, myself included." Baker said.

"I'm sure any official would he removed if we had proof."

Following a US protest. Kirsanov was banned for his handling of the featherweight final in which Bekzat Sattarkhanov posted a 22-14 points win over US world champion Ricardo

But the result stood and Sattarkhanov kept the gold medal for Kazakhstan.

Uzbekistan also failed in their bid to reverse the result of the super-heavyweight scimfinal between their fighter Rustam Saidov and Kazaklıstan's Mukhtarkan Dildabekov, but Jabucanin was still suspended.

Baker said it was a coincidence that the two most controversial refereeing decisions involved Kazakhstan fighters.

But he said it was "disappointing" the worst refereeing of the tournament came from Kirsanov in a gold medal bout.

"It's hard to tell whether that was intentional or unintentional, but we have no reason to tell whether it was intentional, he said.

"It was substandard ... but we have to take it at face value. Baker told Australian Associated Press (AAP).

We have no evidence whatsoever of any official taking bribes."

But two officials involved in the tournament and speaking on condition of anonymity alleged Monday that more than 10 per cent of fights were fixed.

"I would say 20-25 per cent of fights were doubtful decisions and I would say half of them were out and out stitchup jobs," one of the officials told

"A number of referees vowed they would never want to be part of an Olympic boxing program again.

The AIBA went into the Olympics apparently expecting

It installed spy cameras over the judges to monitor their scoring and offered to double any offers of bribes.

"People have been bribed here, there's no question of that, by the way people have behaved this week. I can't prove that, but they have been," one official said.

be out for six weeks LONDON. Oct 2: England

and Tottenham defender Sol Campbell needs an operation that will keep him on the sidelines for up to six weeks after a scan revealed a torn muscle as well as a dislocated shoulder suffered in the Worthington Cup tie at Brentford on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Spurs initially believed their captain could be back in three to four weeks, but manager Graham revealed Wednesday: There is a small tear as well as the dislocation and he's having to have microsurgery to repair the problem.

It looks like five to six weeks out for him now and maybe a bit more. It is a blow but we'll just have to battle on without him for a while.

The trouble is there are other injuries at the club as well, particularly in defence and we don't have too much cover.

From Russia

From page-8 then performances.

It was unclear whether the last-nunute arrival was due to a lack of funds, and the Olympic committee made no comment on that decision.

But with the Games over newspapers and sociologists commented that the kussian psyche had changed after the final gold was won.

"We will catch the Americans next time." the Izvestia daily promised next to a photo of star gold medal winning gymnast Svetlana Khorkina sticking out her tongue, showing off that the Russians can still do it.

Between the future and the past - in the Olympics the Russians outran China, but failed to catch the Americans." the Vremya Novostei paper

Some Russian sociologists meanwhile said that even the government — after a series of disasters that included the Kursk nuclear submarine tragedy - stood to profit, if only briefly, from the wave of patriotic fervour as the nation em-

braced its athletes. "For the people, (the Games) are a world war, even if they should not be," said Yury Levada, a senior Russian sociologist with the VTsIOM polling

agency. "It has been so since the first time the Soviet team joined the Olympics" in 1952 at the Hel-

sinki Games. Yet he expressed doubt that its effects would last long. "This could of course help

the government, but I don't

think it will do so too much



As Roma ace Francesco Totti (R) runs to celebrate his strike against Bologna during their Serre A fixture at Rome on October 1. Team-mate Argentine superstar Gabriel Batistuta is -- AFP photo rushing in to congratulate.

Serie A

Inter's loss break the pattern



Giant clubs Juventus. AS Roma and AC Milan all A had victories to start their do

mestic campaign on a positive note while Inter Milan's defeat was the major shock on the first weekend of the 2000/01 Italian league championship. reports AFP. Juventus had to come back

from a goal down at newlypromoted Napoli on Saturday night to kick-start their campaign with a 2-1 victory.

opened the score on 40 minutes after a defensive blunder by Juve central defender Ciro Fer-However, after the break Arsenal in mid-week had a hard

Yugoslav Darko Kovacevic lev- time in Bergamo where they header from a cross by Zinedine with Atalanta. Zidane on 67 minutes before first league goal in a year on 74 draw level with the newly- coach.

minutes.

AS Roma's Italian international Francesco Totti scored the first with a header and an own goal by Bologna's Marcello Castellini, closely marked by Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta, accounted for their second in a 2-0 victory.

AC Milan won by the same scoreline against Vicenza with star players Oliver Bierhoff of Shevchenko on target.

scorers of this first weekend after their 4-2 victory over Napoli's Roberto Stellone Brescia, adding to their recent ousting of Juventus from the Italian Cup. Champions Lazio, beaten 2-0 in the champions league by

elled the scores with a fine could only manage a 2-2 draw

promoted side.

Inter Milan coach Marcello Lippi was furious however after his side lost 2-1 to Reggiana. am ashamed to send out a team that played in such a manner, with complacency and without heart," blasted Lippi. "If I was president I would fire everyone. players and coach."

"There is not much to say and no mitigating circum-Germany and Ukraine's Andrei stances to defend us," added Inter's sports director Gabriele Udinese were the biggest Oriali who said there was no possiblility of Lippi being fired. Lippi had been living on a knife-edge since his side's elimination from the European Champions League at the last qualifying stage by Swedish

minnows Helsingborgs. A qualification for the Italian Cup quarter-finals at the expense of Lecce salvaged some pride, but Lippi knows his side The Romans were saved by a need to improve drastically if he Alessandro Del Piero scored his late goal from Simone Inzaghi to is to see out the season as

Primera Liga

Barca's awful run on

Deportivo went ahead on 65

and finished off the Catalans

with a solo effort from new

World player of the year Rivaldo

through injury, have now lost

lour of their last five matches

including the 2-0 defeat against

Champions League in midweek

Ferrer will soon face the scorn

of the fickle Barcelona public

National holiday

in 'Lions'

honour

will be a national holiday in the

Cameroon by Presidential de-

gold won by their football team

Saturday night after Cameroon

won Olympic gold beating Spain

on penalties and will no doubt

continue until Wednesday when

the Olympic champions take on

World Cup holders and Euro-

Sunday, reports AFP.

friendly.

YAOUNDE, Oct 2: Monday

New coach Lorenzo Serra

Barcelona, who missed

signing Diego Tristan.



Champions De- clinch second spot while Real portivo de La Madrid could only draw 0-0 in Coruna went top the heavy rain at Santander in of the Spanish Saturday night's match. league on Sunday with a home 2-0 victory over minutes with a 25 metre shot troubled Catalan giants Barce- from veteran Brazilian Donato

Iona, reports AFP. Deportivo's Galician neighbours Celta Vigo were knocked off top spot after losing 3-0 at Madrid's supposed third string

Valencia notched up their AC Milan in the European

side Rayo Vallecano. Rayo. who made the early pace last season, are now fourth.

sixth consecutive victory win-

Holland squad for World Cup qualifiers

THE HAGUE, Oct MAFRI Holland coach Louis Von Gaal announced Monday, the following squad for 2002 World Cup qualifiers away to Cyprus on October 7, and for the home tie against Portugal on October

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Edwin Van der Sar (Juventus/Ita). Sander Westerveld (Liverpool/Eng) Defenders: Michael Reiziger

(Barcelona/Spa), Bert Konterman (Glasgow Rangers/Sco). Fernando Ricksen (Glasgow Rangers/Sco). Arthur Numan (Glasgow Rangers/Sco), Frank de Boer (Barcelona/Spa)

Midfielders: Paul Bosvelt (Fevenoord), Clarence Seedorf (Inter Milan/Ita), Mark Van Bommel (PSV Eindhoven), Giovaimi Van Bronckhorst (Glasgow Rangers/Sco). Edgar Davids (Juventus/Ita), Philip Cocu (Barcelona/Spa). Jeffrey Talan (Heerenveen), Ronald de Boer (Barcelona/Spa)

Strikers: Marc Overmars Barcelona/Spa). Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona/Spa), Vennegoor of Hesselink (FC Twente). Boudewijn Zenden Some still wanted even (Barcelona/Spa). Wilfried Bounga (PSV Eindhoven)

Daum to take Legal action against Hoeness

BERLIN. Oct 2: Bayer Leverkusen coach and future German national boss Christoph Daum is set to sue Uli Hoeness for defamation, after outrageous allegations from the Bayern Munich general manager were published in German dady AZ

on Monday, reports AFP Hoeness had been blasting Dann in the press this weekend about the appointment of Daum at the head of the national team at the end of the season.

"His private environment, the image he portrays and his relations with prostitutes that he has even admitted, all indicate doubts surrounding his appointment as coach of a country like Germany, said Hoeness.

who infamously whistled Ron MADRID. Oct 2: ming 5-1 against Las Palmas to aldo for not passing often enough in what was his greatest ever season. Ravo Vallecano, who went

through to the second round of the UEFA Cup with a victory over Norway's Molde ended Celta Vigo's unbeaten run with goals from Ramon De Quin tana. Mauro and Michel.

Celta's Hispano-Brazilian keeper Catanha, who was called up to the Spanish national side this week was sent all in the tie that saw his side ship from first

Valencia's Slovenian international Zlatko Zahovic added to his European Champions League goal from Wednesday and Juan Sanchez claimed top spot in the marksman stakes bagging his fifth league goal.

Real Madrid, the only side to have beaten Valencia this term held on to their own unbeaten record with a 0-0 draw at Racing santander but could have done better as Santander's Russian striker Vladimir Best chastnykh was sent off before half-time

cree in honour of the Olympic Barcelona's poorer cousins the "Lions", it was declared on saw their match abandoned for the second time in a week be-Celebrations started late cause of torrential rain.

On Thursday Espanyol came back out to complete a 2-0 victory over Slovenes Olimpia Ljubijana. On Sunday the rain saved them as they were 1-2 down to Real Sociedad when pean champions France in a the match had to be aban doned



Valencia forward Juan Sanchez (L) and a Las Palmas defender locked in a tussle during their Primera Liga encounter at Valencia on October 1. - AFP photo

FA charge Collymore

LONDON, Oct 2: Stan Collymore was charged on Monday with violent misconduct by the Football Association - on the same day that English Premiership leaders Leicester agreed to his transfer request, reports

The controversial striker has been handed the charge for his clash with Everton midfielder Paul Gascoigne eight days ago on the recommendation of the FA's video advisory panel.

Collymore was caught on camera appearing to stamp on Gascoigne at the end of the Premiership match at Filbert Street and faces a minimum three-match suspension and a fine of two weeks' wages.

Earlier Leicester confirmed they had accepted Collymore's transfer request.

It means Collymore has almost certainly played his last game for the club following talks with manager Peter Tay-

Leicester released a brief statement, saying: "Leicester City today agreed to a transfer request from Stan Collymore and the player has been placed on the transfer list.

"Neither Leicester City or Mr Collymore will be making any further comment.'

Taylor had hinted last week that he could offer Collymore, 29, a life-line at Filbert Street if he buckled down and adopted the right attitude in training.

But following further talks on Monday former England under-21 manager Taylor decided there is no place at the club for the wayward former Aston Villa striker.

Taylor's decision is the latest chapter in the topsy-tury career of the unquestionably talented, but tempestuous Colly-

France lose stars

PARIS, Oct 2: France's star midfielder Zinedine Zidane and AS Roma player Vincent Candela have pulled out of their country's friendly internationals against Cameroon here Wednesday and Saturday in South Africa, coach Roger Lemerre announced Monday, reports AFP.

The Juventus playmaker has a muscle problem to his right log while Candela has still not recovered from knee surgery, with Lemerre drafting in Middlesbrough's utility man Christian Karembeu for cover.

Manchester United goalkeeper Fabien Barthez is also extremely doubtful with his troublesome back, with Nantes 'keeper Mickael Landreau set to be called up, along with Parma midfielder Johan Micoud.

Paris St. Germain striker Nicolas Anelka is certain to miss the Cameroon match after injuring his ankle during his side's 1-1 draw at Guingamp at the weekend, but will travel | United players were converging with the squad to South Africa and could play Saturday.

Europe's elite agree on changes

MUNICH. Germany, Oct 2: Europe's top clubs, represented by officials of the G14 group. agreed proposals for changes to the transfer laws at a meeting here on Monday, reports AFP. The six-point plan, however,

as not made public. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, vicepresident of the 14-team group said they first wanted to discuss it with the relevant people

World football's governing body FIFA, the European body UEFA and European Union (EU) commisaire Mario Monti. opposed to the current transfer system, would have to be notified. Rummenigge said. FIFA are set to have a

working group on Friday. A week ago, Germany put together a compromise package designed to settle the controversial issue of football trans-

Football authorities have until the end of October to come up with proposals to put before the EU.

Rivaldo in Brazil, Conceicao out of qualifier

BARCELONA, Oct 2: Superstar Rivaldo, suffering from a left ankle injury, has gone to Brazil for their World Cup qualifier in Maracaibo, Venezuela on Sunday, his chib Barcelona said, reports AFP.

The Brazilian football led-

eration (CBF) demanded the

presence of the world player of the year so Rio doctors could do their own tests. Rivaldo hurt himself in Barcelona's European Champions League match against AC Milan last week and missed his side's

2-0 Spanish league defeat to

Deportivo La Coruna on Sun-

Real Madrid's Flavio Conceicao is also set to miss the October 8 qualifier through a groin injury, the Spanish press said

portivo La Coruna, said Real Madrid will fax the news to the Brazilian Football Federation. Flavio picked up the injury in Madrid's 0-0 draw at Racing Santander on Saturday night where he failed to come out for

the second half.

from Spanish champions De-

Premiership

Henry stunner sinks champs



Freddy

wonderstrike on the halfhour gave Arsenal

a 1-0 victory over champions Manchester United at Highbury on Sunday - the Old Trafford club's first defeat of the season, reports AFP.

miership after they battled to of the referee. earn a 0-0 draw at Sunderland - their sixth clean sheet this broke the deadlock after 10 season.

hind after eight games of the tional, under pressure from campaign. sea dented Liverpool's title

challenge with a convincing 3-0 home win. Just after the half-hour Henry fired Arsenal ahead with locked the Liverpool defence to a quite sensational strike following a free-kick for a foul on

Ljungberg which

David Beckham a brought booking. kick to Gilles Grimandi, who spotted Henry on the edge of baink who slotted his fourth the box. The striker swivelled goal of the season. and shot in one superb fluid

over French Euro 2000 col- after 20 minutes but his shot league Fabien Barthez into the was palmed away by Chelsea far corner of the net. Barthez then nearly handed Arsenal a second goal, belting the ball against the body of Nwankwo Kann who was

hopefully pursuing a back-pass

to the keeper. Luckily for

United the ball bounced to salety But Henry was beginning to trighten United with his electric pace and he flashed past Dennis Irwin to set up Silvinho whose precise low cross looked a certainty for Dennis Bergkamp only for the Dutchman to scuff his shot wide

through a crowd of players. United's attacks had lost their earlier purpose and Tony Adams and Martin Keown were comfortably heading away hopeful crosses.

After Irwin desperately wrestled Henry down at the other end Barthez was fully extended to push away Silvinho's curling free-kick before United finally mounted a more meaningful threat through Cole who hit a 20-yard drive with plenty of power but saw it spiral over Seaman's crossbar. A scintillating move nearly

put United back on terms two minutes into the second half. Andy Cole got the better of Adams and slipped the ball to Teddy Sheringham who in turn set up Ryan Giggs for a rasping drive which Arsenal keeper David Seaman turned over at full stretch.

Then United seemed certain to equalise on 58 minutes as a corner was only half-cleared and suddenly a whole pack of on Seaman who was grateful to block Paul Scholes' attempted prod past him.

 Bergkamp was switched from the right wing to central striker alongside Henry but

LONDON, Oct 2: neither player had little joy as French interna- Arsenal concentrated on win- closing stages of the first half Thierry ning the midfield battle where and almost added a third and Scholes.

In a tense finish Arsenal over Westerveld's crossbar. were on the counter charge clearing a corner and as Adams burst forward to support the United's loss means Leices- move he was blatantly chopped ter stay top of the English Pre- down by Scholes - out of sight

At Stamford Bridge Chelsea minutes thanks to an error by Leicester top the table on 16 Liverpool goalkeeper Sander points, with United a point be- Westerveld. The Dutch interna-Chelsea captain Dennis Wise. Elsewhere strugglers Chel- attempted to punch clear Gianfranco Zola's inswinging corner but only managed to push the ball into his own net.

> A minute later Chelsea unincrease their lead.

After a jinking run by Zola. Icelandic international Eidur Gudjohnsen found plenty of space on the right wing before Silvinho touched the free- laying the ball off for strike partner Jimmy Floyd Hassel-

movement and lofted the ball Liverpool back into the game goalkeeper Ed de Goey.

Chelsea dominated the Ray Parlour and Grimandi were through Hasselbaink but his fierce competitors for Roy Keane stooping header from Graeme Le Saux's left-wing cross sailed

But German international again through Ljungberg after Dietmar Hamman came closer just before the interval but his rasping shot flew inches wide of

> de Goey's left upright. Liverpool started the second half strongly and Nick Barmby almost handed his side a lifeline a minute after the break. Christian Ziege's pass found the England star free in the box but his shot rolled agonisingly wide

> with de Goey stranded. Tempers flared seconds later with both teams scrapping for possession and England teammates Stephen Gerrard and Wise both received vellow cards from referee Dermot Gallacher

> for tigly challenges. Robbie Fowler came off the substitutes bench in place off Barmby as Liverpool tried to vary their attacking options but Gudjohnsen gave the visitors a mountain to climb 19 minutes from time.

A misunderstanding between Stephan Henchoz and Hyppia Michael Owen almost hauled allowed the young Icelander through on goal and he sidestepped Westerveld before rolling the ball into the Liverpool



HOT HENRY: Arsenal's hero of the day, French international striker Thierry Henry(L) skips past Manchester United's Paul Scholes during their Premiersip clash at Highbury on October 1.

All is not well at MU



ports AFP.

Footballing giant Manchester United reported a profit slump on

Monday, as a dis

appointing season in Europe and the soaring cost of signing top players had a knock-on Scottish Premiership

Larsson saves

Celtic GLASGOW, Oct 2: Shavenheaded striker Henrik Larsson proved a cut above the rest on Sunday as his late header rescued a point for leaders Celtic in a 1-1 draw at Aberdeen, re-

The new-look Swedish international, who had his dreadlocks chopped this week, rescued a point after it threatened to be Robbie Winters' day after the in-form striker had bagged his fourth goal in two games. The late sending off of Bobby

Petta meant that Celtic had to

dig deep for the last eight minutes to secure a share of the points which keeps them two points ahead of Hibernian at the top of the Premier League. Elsewhere Edinburgh club Hearts recovered from their UEFA Cup exit in midweek with

3-0 win over Motherwell

thanks to a double by Gordon Durie on his debut. The visitors survived an early penalty scare after defender Ange Oueifio was sent off by referee Willie Young for a last-ditch challenge on Northern Ireland international Andy

Kirk. Goalkeeper Stevie Woods made a brilliant diving save from Colin Cameron's eighthminute spot-kick, but five minutes later ex-Rangers star Durie scored with a header from Gary Naysmith's cross from the left.

Hearts were running riot against 10-man Motherwell and after 27 minutes Andrew Kirk The midfielder, who arrived slotted home from inside the at Madrid in the close season from Spaniard Juanjo.

six-yard box after a cut-back players. the fight but it was Durie who the deal, and executives were (Juventus) capped an impressive first per- unwilling to comment on the formance for Hearts by heading mooted Nike contract, which home his second and Hearts' third on 58 minutes after Ste-

ven Pressley had headed on a

Navsmith corner.

effect on financial results, reports AFP.

England's largest football club reported pretax profit for the year to July of 16.8 million pounds (28 million euros, 24.9 million dollars), down 25 percent from last year's result.

Turnover increased over the same period by five percent to 116 million pounds. Although Manchester United

during the reporting period, it was knocked out of the lucrative European Cup at the quarter final stage. The club also chose not to compete in the English FA Cup because it wanted to play in a world club tournament in Brazil

retained its Premiership title

than 10 percent to 36.6 million The previous season, Manchester United had won the Premiership, European Cup

instead. This contributed to a

slump in gate receipts of more

and English FA Cup. The skyrocketing cost of signing -- and paying -- players meanwhile ate into Manchester United's income, as operating expenses shot up more than 20 percent to 65.8 million pounds.

United spent 7.8 million pounds on French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez just before the end of its financial year, while the upward pressure on salaries meant that players' wages accounted for 39 percent of turnover, from 33 percent the previous year.

The alarm bells sounded for Manchester United when skipper Roy Keane last year negotiated a handsome pay rise vielding him a salary worth reportedly more than 50,000 pounds (74,000 dollars) a week. But television income pro-

bottom line, jumping to a record 30.5 million pounds largely on the back of the revamped Champions League format. And United is reportedly on the verge of signing a 300million-pound deal with Nike,

vided a handsome boost to the

which would provide welcome funds for further acquisition of The club's trading statement Motherwell never gave up on Monday made no mention of

> with kit sponsor Umbro. against the backdrop of the Roma)

through to 2002," said chief

executive Peter Kenvon.

Investors focussed on the positives in the financial statement, bidding up stock in the world's richest football club one percent to 278.75 pence.

WC 2002 qualifier

Trapattoni includes rookies

ROME. Oct 2: Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni called up newcomers Valerio Bertotto of Udinese and AC Milan's Francesco Coco for their home 2002 World Cup qualifiers against Romania and Georgia, reports

Bertoto and Coco bolster the Italians for these group eight matches against Romania in Milan on Saturday and then against Georgia in Ancona on October 11. The 27-year-old ballwinner

Bertotto, who has played his entire career at Udinese since 1993, has impressed Trapattoni with his speed and tackling The 23-year-old Coco, who

moved from Torino to AC Milan in the summer, will give Trapattoni options. Though normally a fullback he can play in

SQUAD Goalkeepers: Gianluigi Buffon (Parma/Ita). Francesco Toldo (Fiorentina)

(Fiorentina). Valerio Bertotto (Udinese), Fabio Cannavaro (Parma), Mark Iuliano (Juventus). Paolo Maldini (AC Milan). Alessandro Nesta (Lazio). Giuseppe Pancaro (Lazio) Midfielders: Demetrio Albertini (AC Milan). Massimo

Defenders: Daniele Adami

Ambrosini (AC Milan), Francesco Coco (AC Milan), Luigi di Biagio (Inter Milan), Angelo di Livio (Fiorentina). Stefano Fiore (Udinese), Gennaro Gattuso (AC Milan). Alessio Tacchinardi Strikers: Alessandro Del

Piero (Juventus), Marco Delvecwould replace an existing deal chio (AS Roma). Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus). Vincenzo Montella "Discussions are continuing (AS Roma). Francesco Totti (AS