

Leao in the news already

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 22: Newly appointed Brazilian national team manager Emerson Leao drew harsh media criticism and qualified support Saturday, only two days after being selected to his new post, reports AP.

Leao's influential O Globo newspaper published a front-page article questioning Leao's credentials. Leao has never coached a team to a major international title, the newspaper reminded readers, adding that the 51-year-old Leao, best known as Brazil's goalkeeper in four World Cups, has a reputation for feuding with players and courting controversy.

In Lance, Brazil's premier sports newspaper, soccer analyst Gerson called Leao "arrogant and authoritarian," but still a good choice. Many fans liked Leao's promise to return a flamboyant, free-flowing style to Brazilian soccer.

"I like our roots, our dancing soccer," Leao said. The controversy started Friday, when Leao publicly disagreed with team coordinator and his immediate superior Antonio Lopes over forward Romario's so-called "permanent" spot on the national team.

Earlier in the week, Lopes guaranteed fan-favourite Romario would start regularly through the 2002 World Cup qualifying. Leao, however, said Romario had to continue playing well to keep his spot.

"I am the only person who draws up the roster," Leao told reporters.

With Wanderley Luxemburgo fired following Brazil's quarter-final loss to eventual champion Cameroon at the Sydney Olympics, Brazilian soccer officials said they wanted a "low-key" replacement to lead Brazil's national team to the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

Leao began work Saturday on his roster for Brazil's next World Cup qualifying game against Colombia on Nov. 14 much amid speculation on which familiar players would lose their legendary yellow jersey.

The consensus is Leao will scratch Roma defenders Cafu and Antonio Carlos, both long-time veterans.

Brazil, the only nation to qualify for any tournament in every World Cup, enters the Nov. 14 match in second place after nine rounds of South American qualifying, five points behind arch-rival Argentina.

Lazio may exchange Salas for Seedorf

ROME, Oct 22: Talks are underway for an exchange of Lazio's Chilean international striker Marcelo Salas and Inter Milan's Dutch player Clarence Seedorf, the Gazzetta dello sport reported Saturday, reports AP.

Bosses of both clubs have been discussing the financial side of the proposed deal over the past week and agreement is expected to be reached early next week following this weekend's matches between Inter and Udinese Saturday and Lazio and Verona on Sunday.

Meanwhile Everton manager Walter Smith is reported to be sounding out AC Milan for the services of 26-year-old Nigerian defender Taribo West.

According to media reports Smith sent a representative to the San Siro a week ago to open talks. West was a target by Liverpool and Newcastle two years ago and turned them down, but is now reported to be interested in moving to the Premiership.

West's agent Ian Anderson said: "Taribo is keen to prove himself in the Premiership. He knows he can do it."

Scottish Premiership

Celtic in top form

GLASGOW, Oct 22: Celtic increased their lead at the top of the Scottish Premier League to eight points on Saturday with a 2-1 win over bottom club Dundee United at Parkhead, reports AP.

Celtic have 34 points from 12 games, eight ahead of Hibernian, who have a game in hand.

Goals from Swedish international Henrik Larsson and Alan Thompson put the home side in the driving seat but a late own goal from Paul Lambert had Celtic hanging on nervously in the closing stages.

Kilmarnock came from behind to beat St Mirren 2-1 and move above title holders Rangers into third place, although the reigning champions do have two games in hand.

Mark Yardley had headed the visitors into a half-time lead but that advantage was rubbed out through goals from Kilmarnock's Andy McLaren and Alan Mahood.

Motherwell winger Stuart Elliott took just five minutes to bring the Claudio Caniggia bandwagon to a complete standstill at Dens Park.

The Northern Ireland international scored after just 28 seconds and added a second in the fifth minute to ruin the Argentinian's debut.

But the World Cup star treated the home supporters to a spectacular strike in the 22nd minute but it wasn't enough as the home side went down 2-1.

Elsewhere Aberdeen were held to a 0-0 draw at home to Dunfermline.

Primera Liga

Figo, Real feel Barca wrath



BARCELONA, Oct 22: Luis Figo survived a trial from a vengeful Nou Camp crowd on Saturday but could not stop his old club Barcelona claiming a 2-0 victory over his new employers Real Madrid, reports Reuters.

Goals from former Real player Luis Enrique and Simao Sabrosa, the Portuguese winger who has filled Figo's boots so admirably this season, saw the world's most expensive player upstaged on his return to the ground where he made his name.

But Figo at least emerged with his pride intact, never giving up looking one of the most dangerous Real players on show on what was an off night in general for the European champions.

Barcelona coach Llorenç Serra Ferrer refused to comment on Figo's performance, turning instead to his own side's convincing display.

"This was a team victory above all," said the coach.

"We had great balance between our defence and attack. We were even better in the second half when Frank de Boer came on and Philip Cocu pushed us further forward."

"We could have settled the game a lot earlier."

Barcelona moved into second spot behind leaders Valencia who won 1-0 against Real Zaragoza. Valencia are a point ahead of Barca on 13 from six games.

Real drop to third from first with 11 points. This was the Madrid giants' first defeat of the season.

In the other fixture on Saturday, Real Mallorca drew 1-1 with champions Deportivo la Coruna.

Figo had been promised the roughest of rides on his return to Catalan soil for breaking so many hearts with his world record, 56 million dollars defection to Real over the summer.

Even so, the sustained abuse that rained down from the crowd, along with bottles, cans and fake 10 billion peseta notes, was at times shocking.

As Figo won a corner close to the "boixos nois" or mad boys in the second half, police moved in preemptively to form a protective wall around the player.

When he was booked a couple of minutes later for a foul on his marker Carles Puyol, Barcelona defender Abelardo asked the crowd for calm.

After an opening period that had seen crunching tackles coming in from players on both sides of this age-old rivalry, Luis Enrique put the home side

ahead on 27 minutes, nodding in at the near post from a Xavi freekick.

The final touch appeared to come from Real defender Aitor Karanka but nothing was going to stop Luis Enrique - for five years a Real Madrid player - claiming the goal against his former side.

Barca, dominating the match, came close to a second on several occasions before Simao settled the game with 10 minutes to go, scrambling the ball in after Rivaldo had forced a fine save from Iker Casillas and Alfonso had smacked the bar with his follow-up.

The abuse for Figo began even before the match kicked off.

Running out for the warm-

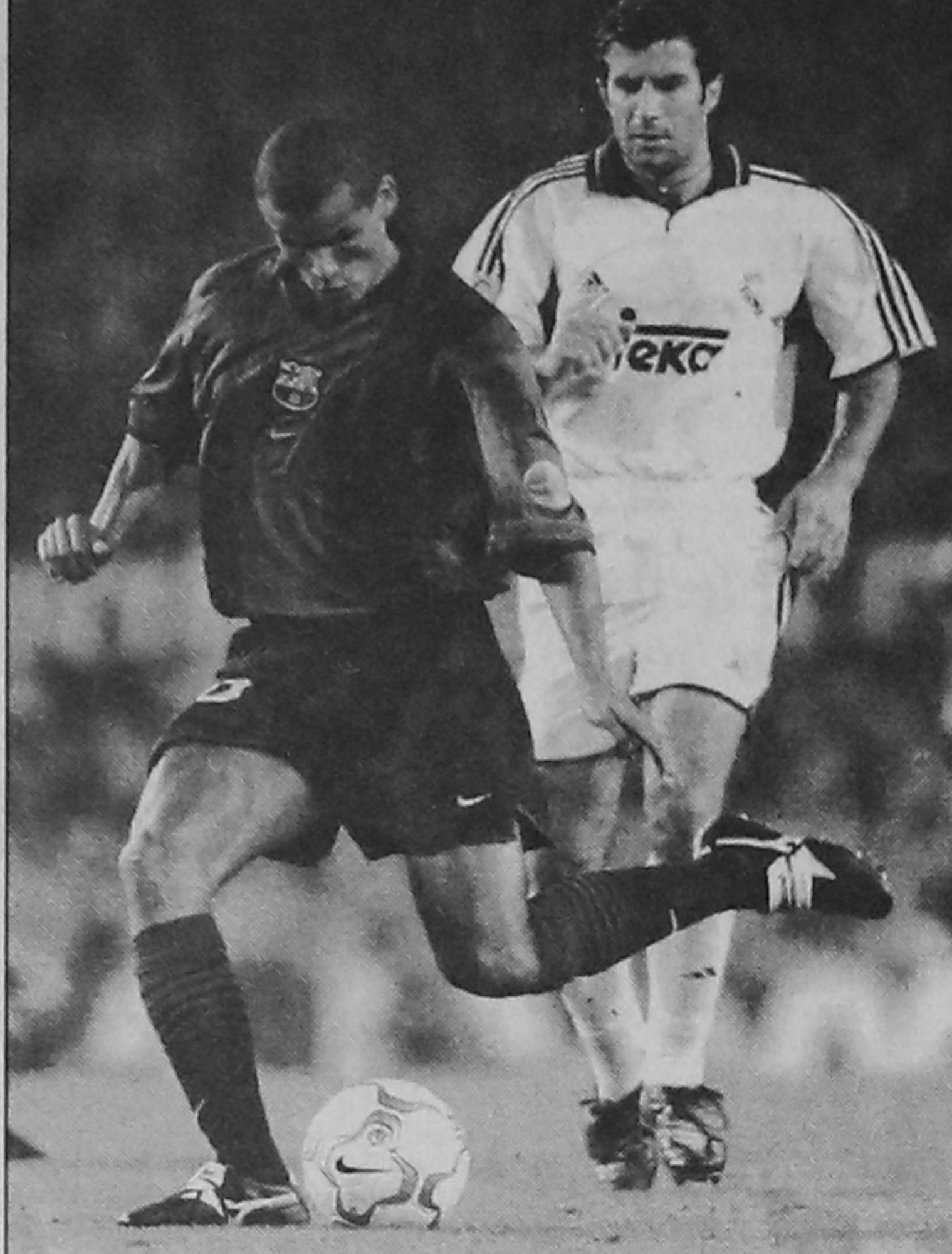
knocked around lazily between the Real players, Figo's every touch brought sustained whistling.

Once the game had actually started, the desibel level increased as Figo made a decent enough start.

Twice in the opening minutes he skinned Puyol to open up the right flank, only for the Barca defence to clear the danger.

He was less effective as the half wore on but he emerged from the break determined to battle for every ball, so much so that he was lucky to escape a yellow card for a desperate late challenge on Rivaldo.

On 77 minutes he came within a whisker of an equaliser as he burst through the Barca



THEY DON'T COME BETTER THAN THEM : Superstars Rivaldo (L) and Luis Figo caught in the same picture during the Barcelona-Real Madrid clash at the Nou Camp on October 21.

up, Figo made a point of looking up to see banners around the ground calling him a traitor and questioning his parentage.

"We have 10,000 million reasons to hate you, Judas," read one banner, in reference to the amount in pesetas it took Real to buy him out of his contract.

Even as the ball was

defence on to a Pedro Munitis pass only to see his shot deflected wide by Abelardo.

Then came Simao's second goal and the game was up for Real and their star attraction.

Figo was hugged by the entire Barca team as he left the pitch to yet more abuse but with his head still high.

Bundesliga Bayern win Munich war

BERLIN, Oct 22: Reigning league champions Bayern Munich went provisionally top of the table on Saturday with a 3-1 success in the Munich derby against 1860 Munich, reports AP.

But the Bavarians could not hope to take centre stage on a day which saw Bayer Leverkusen fire Christoph Daum as coach after he failed a drugs test.

Daum had been set to take over as German national coach next summer but had to inform Leverkusen he had returned a positive drugs test from a hair sample.

Leverkusen club manager Reiner Calmund said current German interim coach, Leverkusen's own sporting director Rudi Voller, would take charge of the first team.

The off-pitch drama helped spur Leverkusen on somehow as they ran out 2-0 winners over Borussia Dortmund, who could have gone top with a win on Saturday evening.

Hertha Berlin went second, level on 18 points with Bayern, after beating promoted Energie Cottbus 3-1, while Hamburg are flirting with the leading trio after a 2-0 success over Eintracht Frankfurt.

Bayern, buoyed by their Champions League success over Paris Saint Germain, won their showdown against 1860 before a 69,000 crowd at the Olympiastadion.

Bayern thanked two goals from Brazilian Giovane Elber and another from Hasan Salihamidzic with veteran Thomas Hassler scoring a trademark freekick for 1860 Munich.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld was pleased to have seen off rivals who beat his side twice last season.

"We took the game to them and played good, attacking football, while we kept a compact shape at the back. (Once we went 1-0 up we didn't let go."

1860 counterpart Werner Lorant admitted his side had not played well.

"We showed defensive lapses. I am happy enough with the performance, but certainly not the result. The opening goal finished us off."

Wolfsburg squashed promoted strugglers Cologne 6-0 to move into sixth spot ahead of Kaiserslautern, who registered a 2-0 home success over Werder Bremen on Friday.

On Sunday VfL Bochum host Hansa Rostock and Freiburg entertain high-flying Schalke 04, who can go top with a win.

French First Div Robert rules for PSG

PARIS, Oct 22: Striker Laurent Robert scored twice to earn French league leaders Paris St Germain their first away victory of the season as they beat bottom-of-the-table Toulouse 3-2 on Saturday, reports Reuters.

PSG opened up a four-point lead over second-placed Bastia, who were held to a goalless draw at Troyes.

The Parisians, who slumped 2-0 at Bayern Munich in the Champions League in midweek, went ahead when Robert scored in the 13th minute from close range following a pass from Brazilian Christian.

But promoted Toulouse, with newly-appointed coach Robert Nouzaret in charge for the first time following four successive defeats, replied through a Nicolas Dieuze volley nine minutes later after he was set up by defender Cedric Uras.

Dieuze put his side in front when his shot from just outside the box was deflected by midfielder Frederic Delu just before half-time. The home team then missed the chance to kill off the match, striker Victor Bonilla hitting a post after a 40-metre run before Robert set up PSG's equaliser by crossing for captain Eric Rabesandratana to head home in the 69th minute.

Robert wrapped the match up on penalty spot, lifting his season's tally to nine goals, after substitute Nicolas Anelka was brought down in the 77th minute.

"It's the result we've been chasing since the season started and it's a morale-boost," said Paris coach Philippe Bergeroo.

"We knew it was going to be very difficult here, especially after our defeat at Munich."

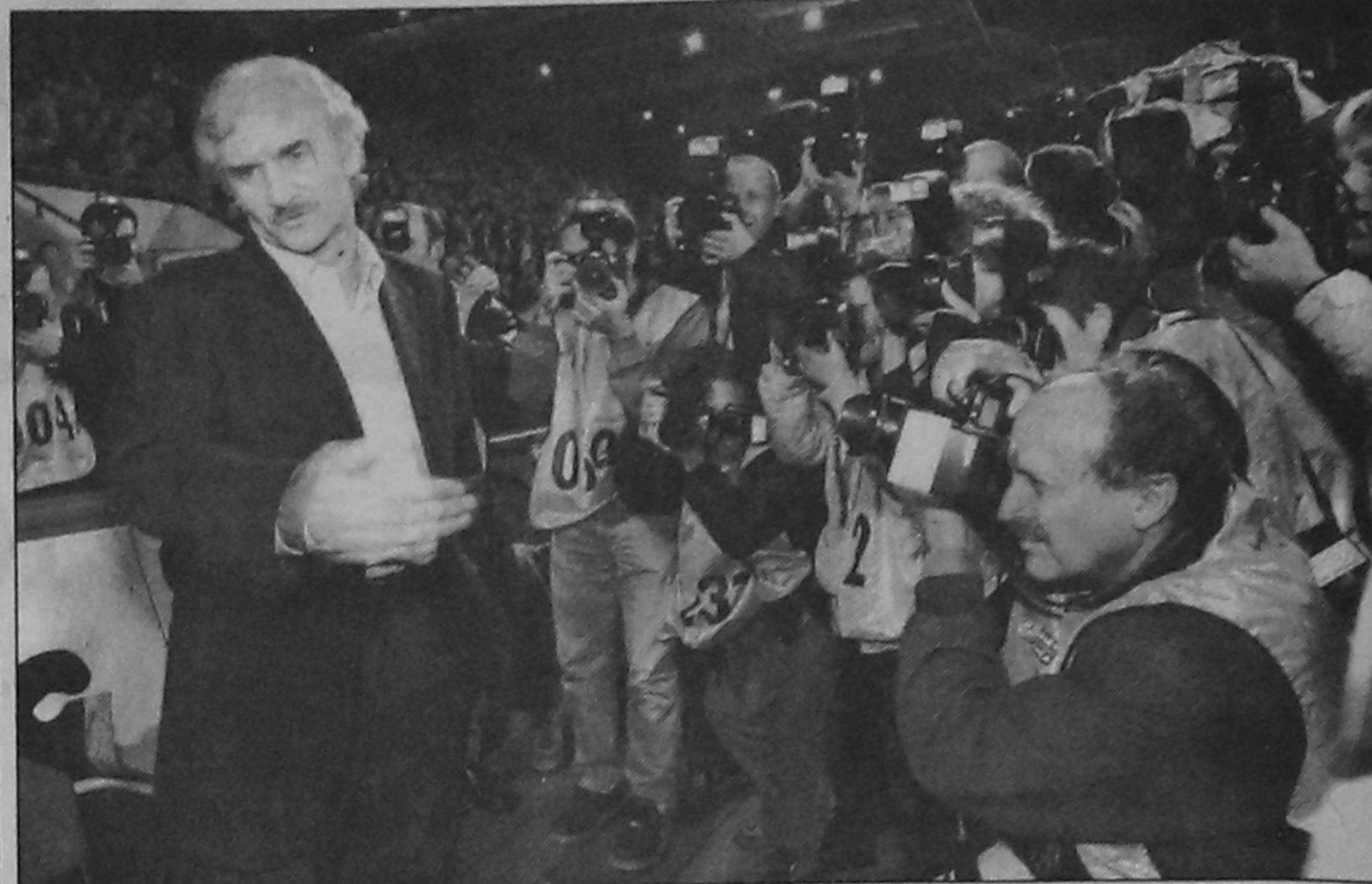
"We have the league's best attack. The team have great skills, even if obviously they lack rigour."

Nouzaret said: "We came back from behind and we had the opportunity to kill the match but we conceded two goals in the last 20 minutes by making two blatant mistakes. It's really disturbing."

Title holders Monaco were held at a 1-1 draw at home by struggling AJ Auxerre. Monaco are now five points adrift of PSG in third place in the table.

Defender Rafael Marquez opened the scoring for the hosts, heading home a free-kick by playmaker Marcelo Gallardo in the 35th minute, but the visitors replied through striker Stephane Guivarch who equalised from close-range on the hour.

Olympique Lyon, reduced to ten men after goalkeeper Gregory Coupet was sent off for handling the ball outside the box in the seventh minute, held Girondins Bordeaux to a 1-1 draw.



GERMANY'S MOST WANTED : Rudi Voeller, Germany's interim coach is cordoned by photographers before the start of the Bundesliga game between Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Dortmund at Leverkusen on October 21.

Voeller urged to carry on

Germany in total shock



BERLIN, Oct 22: Christoph Daum was dropped as the national team's designated coach and by his club Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday after a positive drug test that shocked nearly everyone in German soccer, reports AP.

The outcome of the test, a hair analysis, was a sudden twist in a spectacular feud with Bayern Munich manager Uli Hoeness, blamed for stirring up reports in early October that Daum used cocaine heavily and participated in wild sex parties with prostitutes.

Interim coach Rudi Voeller will handle both the national team and Leverkusen until the club's officials and the soccer federation meet in the next days. A club employee, he was to step down as German coach for Daum on July 1.

"It's an unbelievable surprise for us. We have to get together quickly to find a solution - I hope Voeller is prepared to continue on the job," said Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, manager of the national team.

Voeller coached Leverkusen to a 2-0 victory Saturday against Borussia Dortmund, then said it was not the time and place to discuss his future with the national team.

"The shock's too deep at this point," said the visibly shaken Voeller. "When they told me, I said what are you talking about - why would he (Daum) take the hair analysis then?"

Voeller, widely praised for his work, has led Germany to three victories and is so popular he draws chants of "Rud-iii, Rud-iii" from the country's fans.

The 1990 World Cup champions' forward has said he doesn't want to keep the national post.

Daum volunteered himself to take the hair analysis 12 days ago to prove his innocence - the reason many top German figures were so astonished at the outcome.

"We all expected him to pass the test, - someone that willingly undertakes a test usually has a clear conscience," said Munich president Franz Beckenbauer. "No one wanted this. This is a human tragedy."

Leverkusen said Daum was clean on three of four drugs he was tested for at the University of Cologne. Cocaine was among the substances tested, but the club said only the coach knows which test he failed.

Daum, in a statement released by Leverkusen, said he doubted the tests' findings and would take a second one to prove his innocence.

The German Soccer Federation, which was set to offer Daum a three-year contract, dissolved the deal Saturday. Daum handed in a resignation to Leverkusen, while club officials said he had to go after the positive drug test.

Daum's downfall was stunning and without precedence in Germany, where the Hoeness-led attacks and the rumors

were regarded as an attack on a person's private life never seen before in the sports.

The pressure on Voeller, and assistant Michael Skibbe, to take the German job has already started. They have produced a remarkable turnaround in the same cast of players who were ousted in the first round at Euro 2000, the first time for Germany in a major tournament since 1984.

"The ideal solution would be Voeller and Skibbe," said Beckenbauer.

Jupp Heynckes, who led Real Madrid and Benfica Lisbon, was also mentioned as a candidate.

Daum came within one match last season of lifting the Bundesliga title from Bayern Munich and his reputation was at an all-time high when he was chosen as the future German coach at a crisis meeting held just days after the Euro 2000 debacle.

But with Voeller and Skibbe's surprising success, he started coming under attack as a keep-Voeller movement grew in the country with every new victory by the national side.

But no one apparently expected Saturday's outcome to the affair.

"A bomb like that has to first sink in. I can't understand why he wanted to take the hair analysis test," said Lothar Matthaus, on tour in Germany with Major League Soccer's MetroStars.

Serie A

Conte saves Juve, Inter floored



ROME, Oct 22: Late goals by second-half substitutes David Trezeguet and Antonio Conte allowed Juventus of Turin to recover a two-goal deficit and hold AC Milan to a 2-2 draw in the first "big match" of the Serie A campaign, reports AP.

Saturday's draw at Milan's San Siro stadium, between two top title contenders, extended the unbeaten streak of the Turin team to three games, giving La Juve 7 points in the overall standings, in a tie with Udinese.

The team of Udine stunned Internazionale 3-0 in the only other game of the day.

Two second-half goals in two minutes, on precise headers by Massimo Ambrosini and Andriy Shevchenko, gave AC Milan a 2-0 lead by the 60th minute.

It was the 27th goal in 35 league matches for the Ukrainian star-forward, who was the leading Serie A scorer last season on his first year in Italy.

Trezeguet, the newly signed French striker, scored the first goal for the visiting team in the 67th, two minutes after entering the field as substitute for Alessandro Del Piero.

Midfielder Antonio Conte, fielded in the final minutes, kicked in the equaliser from the edge of the penalty area in injury time.

Although disappointing for AC Milan, the result was fair as La Juve prevailed in the first half under a perfect midfield direction by French star Zinedine Zidane.

It was Zidane, the best player of the match, who to feed the teammates for both goals.

Both teams, who had demanding Champions League matches earlier this week, produced a sparkling second half, in front of a sold out crowd of 81,000, following a dull first period.

AC Milan, coming from a last-minute 2-1 defeat against Bologna in their previous round, moved to four points in three matches.

AS Roma, who plays underdog Vicenza in Sunday's action of Week Three, has the chance to take an undisputed lead in the standings, starting with six points from two matches.

At Friuli stadium, Udinese's clearcut victory dampened enthusiasm and hopes touched off last week by the successful debut of coach Marco Tardelli at Inter's helm.

A first-half penalty converted by international midfielder Ste-

fano Fiore, and second half goals by forward Roberto Muzzi and by young substitute Vincenzo Jaquinta gave Udinese their second home win, while causing Inter their second defeat in three games.

Tardelli, the former coach of Italy's Under-21 team who replaced much-criticized Marcello Lippi on Inter's bench, had led the Milan team to a 3-1 home

only problems for Udinese defense and nearly scored on a free kick in the 55th minute.

Veteran Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano also had a good chance in the closing minutes when he put the ball past keeper's Luigi Turci. A defender managed to clear from the net line.

As Inter tried to reduce the gap fielding two forwards for



Marco Zanchi (L), the Juventus defender, almost takes AC Milan's Andrei Sherchenko's (R) head off during their Serie A fixture at the San Siro on October 21.

win against lowly-regarded Napoli on his debut match last Saturday.

Inter are left with three points out of three matches. Danish midfielder Martin Jorgensen played a key role in Udinese's victory.

He earned the penalty in the 28th minute, when he was fouled by Inter's defender Fabio Macellari one metre inside the penalty area.

In the 63rd, he led a fast counter-attack and fed Muzzi for the second goal of the home team. The ball kicked by Muzzi hit the post and bounced into the net.

Jorgensen's substitute, Jaquinta, made it three converting a penalty awarded in injury time when Brazilian Alberto was grounded by Inter's French midfielder Benoit Cauet.

Uruguayan Alvaro Recoba, who's negotiating a controversial extension of his contract with Inter, was fielded in the second half and produced the

Westerhof set to sue SA FA

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 22: Dutch-born coach Clemens Westerhof confirmed Sunday he is suing the South African Football Association after it allegedly reneged on a promise to appoint him national coach, reports AFP.

Westerhof says he was offered a three-year contract worth 550,000 dollars only to be sidelined in favour of former Portugal coach Carlos Queiroz, who succeeded local Trott Moloto this month.

"The national association promised me the coaching post and I signed an agreement only to discover someone else had been hired," Westerhof told reporters here.