

Sport

Zaheer does the rest

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 23: Young left-arm seamer Zaheer Khan grabbed three wickets as India overcame Zimbabwe by 13 runs to record their first win in the Sharjah tri-series here on Sunday, reports AFP.

The Indians piled up 265 for 8, the highest total in the series so far, and then survived anxious moments before restricting Zimbabwe to 252-6 at the Sharjah cricket ground.

The Indian bowlers and fielders overcame the dew-laden outfield to produce the first win in the series for the side defending a total. Sri Lanka won the previous two games chasing under the lights.

The second leg of the preliminary round starts on Wednesday with Sri Lanka leading the table with two wins. India have one win, while Zimbabwe have yet to open their account.

The top two teams will qualify for the final next Sunday. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Sharjah tri-series one-day international between India and Zimbabwe on Sunday:

INDIA: 265 for 8 in 50 overs (Dravid 85, Yuvraj 34, Dahiya 32, Friend 4/55, Streak 2/63) ZIMBABWE

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Zaheer, Prasad, Agarkar, Joshi, Yuvraj, Robin, Tendulkar.

Result: India won by 13 runs. Man-of-the-match: Zaheer Khan.

Next match: Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe, Wednesday

Windwards end Red Stripe drought

KINGSTON, Oct 23: The Windward Islands won the Red Stripe Bowl cricket tournament in Jamaica - their first title in 11 years - by beating arch-rivals Leeward Islands by five wickets, reports AP.

Roy Marshall, a former Leeward Islands player, hit the winning runs Sunday in the 43rd over at Sabina Park in Kingston.

Traditionally the weakest of the West Indian teams, the Windwards scored 164 for the loss of five wickets, surpassing their opponents' 163 for eight, which was made in 50 overs.

Consistent batting from opener Romel Curraney, who made 26, and the experienced junior Murray, who clinched 30, set a strong foundation for the Windwards. Marshall, the most experienced player on the team, joined captain Rawl Lewis to guide the islanders home with unbeaten innings of 36 and 23 respectively.

Offspinner Anthony Lake was the best of the bowlers for the Leeward, with three wickets. The Leeward team was contesting its fourth successive final.

Earlier, the Windwards restricted the Leeward thanks to tight bowling from Lewis, a right-arm leg-spinner, who tore through his opponents' middle order.

The Leeward team won the toss and was batting steadily at 61 without loss. But the Windwards spinners, led by Lewis with three wickets for 31 runs, drew the Leeward batsmen into a series of injudicious strokes.

Stuart Williams and Wilden Cornwall gave the Leeward a solid start with Williams hitting fastbowler Nixon McLean for two boundaries in one over and dispatching left-arm spinner Marshall for another in his second over.

But Marshall had the last laugh in the 19th over when he had Williams stumped for 28.

Six more wickets then fell for a mere 38 runs as Lewis, a former West Indies player, dismissed Runako Morton, Dave Joseph and Carl Tuckett cheaply to leave his team in the driver's seat.

A late flurry from captain Rikley Jacobs and Lake put the Leeward back on track briefly, but Jacobs was run out in the 47th over for 28 going for a sharp single.

Lake, who put on 38 for the seventh wicket with Jacobs, was unbeaten at the end with 21.

Goodwin dropped after a good win

PERTH, Australia, Oct 23: Former Zimbabwe star batsman Murray Goodwin has been dropped from the Western Australian side after only one game in which he hit a match-winning unbeaten 62, reports AFP.

Goodwin, 27, who returned to Australia two months ago, was axed Monday from the State team to play South Australia in a Sheffield Shield clash at Adelaide Oval from Thursday.

This is despite his magnificently controlled near run-a-minute knock against the same team in a one-day Cup match last week won by three runs at the WACA Ground here last Friday.

Serie A

Roma rocket to top



MILAN, Oct 23: AS Roma showed real champion pedigree here Sunday, soaring to two points clear at the top of the Italian First Division with a 3-1 win over Vicenza at the Olympic Stadium, reports AFP.

Roma's arch-rivals and defending title holders Lazio, meanwhile, saw a dreadful week end with a 2-0 defeat at Verona.

Pre-season favourites Roma had been ahead of Juventus on goal difference before the weekend but the Turin giants had to overturn a 2-0 deficit to post a 2-2 draw at AC Milan Saturday night, meaning Roma are the only team left with a 100 per cent record after three rounds of games.

Goals from Francesco Totti, Vincenzo Montella and Gabriel Batistuta were enough for Roma with Sierra Leone's Mohamed Kallon scoring for Verona.

Roma, on nine points, lead three teams on seven - Udinese (3-0 victors over Inter Milan Saturday), Juventus and surprise packages Atalanta who eclipsed Bari 2-0.

This Roma has really earned its place as leader, said coach Fabio Capello. "We look like we want to be there and that for me is very positive."

Totti struck the first after 39 minutes, linking up well with his colleague for club and country Marco Delvecchio who made a fine run down the left.

Delvecchio provided the perfect cross and Totti arrived at the far post to volley home.

The second goal was a less clear-cut affair with substitute Vincenzo Montella credited with the strike after a race for the ball with Vicenza defender Marco Aurelio.

Kallon briefly restored Vicenza's hopes after 85 minutes before Argentinian Batistuta sealed the points.

Lazio completed a miserable week, crashing 2-0 at Verona thanks to an own goal by Giuseppe Favalli who turned a harmless cross past Angelo Peruzzi.

Romanian Adrian Mutu made it 2-0 after 77 minutes and Verona survived the sending off of Alessandro Mazzola to win. Just to rub salt in Sinisa Mihajlovic, banned for two Champions League games by UEFA, missed an injury-time penalty.

Also having a thin time of it are Parma who are yet to win and crashed 3-1 at unfashionable Perugia on Sunday night, conceding three goals in the

first 20 minutes. Cristian Bucchi gave the home team a lead after only four minutes and then central defender Marco Materazzi and Giovanni Tedesco got in on the scoring act.

French midfielder Johan Micoud snatched a consolation goal for Parma whose striker Savo Milosevic was dismissed in injury time. A bottle was hurled at the Yugoslav as he left the field.

The problems facing Napoli and their coach Zdenek Zejnan intensified when the newly-promoted club were spanked 5-1 at home by Bologna.

A freekick from Cameroonian Olympic gold medalist Pierre Wome and an own goal from Francesco Baldini killed the game before the interval.

Baldini's goal was a farcical affair, getting in the way of a

Signori and Julio Cruz struck again to emphasise the gulf leaving Napoli - like Vicenza - without a point.

Fans vented their anger both inside and outside the stadium in scenes that left 30 injured and Coppola left the pitch in tears after being blamed by supporters for the reverse.

Lecce bagged an important win at Reggio Calabria with Cristiano Lucarelli's 35th-minute penalty sufficient to sink Reggina.

Veteran striker Dario Hubner netted as Brescia took a second half lead at home to Fiorentina but Brazilian Leandro came up with an equaliser for the Florence outfit to make it 1-1.

Atalanta continued their encouraging form at Bari, winning 2-0. Fausto Rossini, who secured the three points at

Brescia striker Roberto Baggio said Sunday he was delighted to be back in the Italian national team and hoped it would not be his last call-up, reports AFP.

Baggio was Friday called into Giovanni Trapattoni's squad to face a World All-Star XI at the Olympic Stadium next weekend in a match that will be played in front of Pope John Paul II as part of the Roman Catholic Church's Jubilee celebrations for the start of the third millennium of the Christian faith.

Speaking after his sides 1-1 draw with Fiorentina Baggio said: "It's an important thing and I hope it will not be the last call-up."

Trapattoni was a spectator at the game and Baggio, a veteran of three World Cups, said: "I knew he was coming but he was probably here to watch the other players."

Baggio, formerly known as the "Codino Divino" (divine ponytail) because of his trademark hairstyle and Buddhist beliefs, has had a much-travelled career, playing for Vicenza, Fiorentina, Juventus, AC Milan, Bologna and Inter Milan.

Flamengo turn to Zagallo

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 23: Former Brazil coach Mario Jorge Lobo Zagallo was Sunday appointed coach of top Rio-based outfit Flamengo, struggling after a poor series of results, reports AFP.

Club vice-president Walter Oaquinn said 69-year-old Zagallo would take over from Carlinhos, dismissed after Flamengo lost 2-1 Saturday to Portuguesa for their fifth straight defeat.

The club's status has plummeted after the recent loss of several top stars including Denilson, Alex, Edison and Altirson.

Zagallo, who played in the Brazil World Cup-winning sides of 1958 and 1962, coached the 1970 world champions and was technical advisor on the 1994 World Cup winners.

Zagallo also led the 'auriverde' to the 1998 final when Brazil lost 3-0 to France.

He then had several months with Portuguesa but was dismissed a year ago after poor results.

Murder of Leeds fans Trial resumes in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, Oct 23: The trial resumed here Monday of 20 Turks charged with involvement in the stabbing deaths of two British football fans ahead of a European Cup tie in April, but only four of the defendants appeared in court, reports AFP.

The suspects in attendance included Ali Demir, the main defendant who remains the only one to have admitted using a knife during street violence on April 5 ahead of a UEFA Cup game between Galatasaray and Leeds United.

Two British fans, Kevin Speight, 49, and Christopher Loftis, 36, were stabbed to death during the melee.

All the suspects except Demir were released in an earlier hearing on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence to merit them being held in custody during the trial.

Demir and four other suspects - Ozkan Balci, Suleyman Gokhan Guven, Suleyman Aydin and Yilmaz Tutas - have been indicted on two counts of murder each. They could face nine to 15 years in jail if convicted.

The prosecution has charged five other defendants with assault, for which they could be jailed for 45 months.

Four suspects stand accused of taking part in the fight and could face four-and-a-half months in jail, while five juvenile defendants face up to three months in jail on similar charges.

The remaining suspect, who did not take part in the fight, has been charged with "concealing evidence" and risks two to four years in jail.

US Open Cup Fusion fused in final

CHICAGO, Oct 23: Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov scored in the 44th minute and Tyrone Marshall added another Chicago goal in the 88th to give the Fire a 2-1 triumph over the Miami Fusion here Sunday in the US Open Cup final, reports AFP.

The Fire missed the chance to complete the American double by losing to Kansas City 1-0 last Sunday in the Major League Soccer finals.

Welton averted a shutout loss for Miami in second half injury time.

Crowd trouble at Napoli

NAPLES, Italy, Oct 23: Napoli fans rioted both inside their San Paolo Stadium and outside after the Italian First Division team crashed to a 5-1 defeat by Bologna Sunday, reports AFP.

Twenty members of the public were injured as well as 10 police officers - two of them senior. They were named as Maria Papa and Luigi La Gala who were struck on the body and the head by a large slab of concrete.

The defeat leaves Napoli bottom of Serie A with no points from three games.

The crowd trouble within the stadium began shortly after Giuseppe Signori had scored Bologna's third goal.

Napoli fans in the Curve A area of the ground hurled missiles and aimed vitriolic abuse towards goalkeeper Ferdinando Coppola and the club's joint owner Corrado Ferlaino.

Far worse were the scenes outside the ground with stones, bottles and other objects hurled at police who replied with tear-gas.

The trouble even spread to the Fuorigrotta area of the city and the Cumana station used by residents of the suburbs near Mount Vesuvius.

Order was eventually restored after an hour.

Baggio hopes for the best

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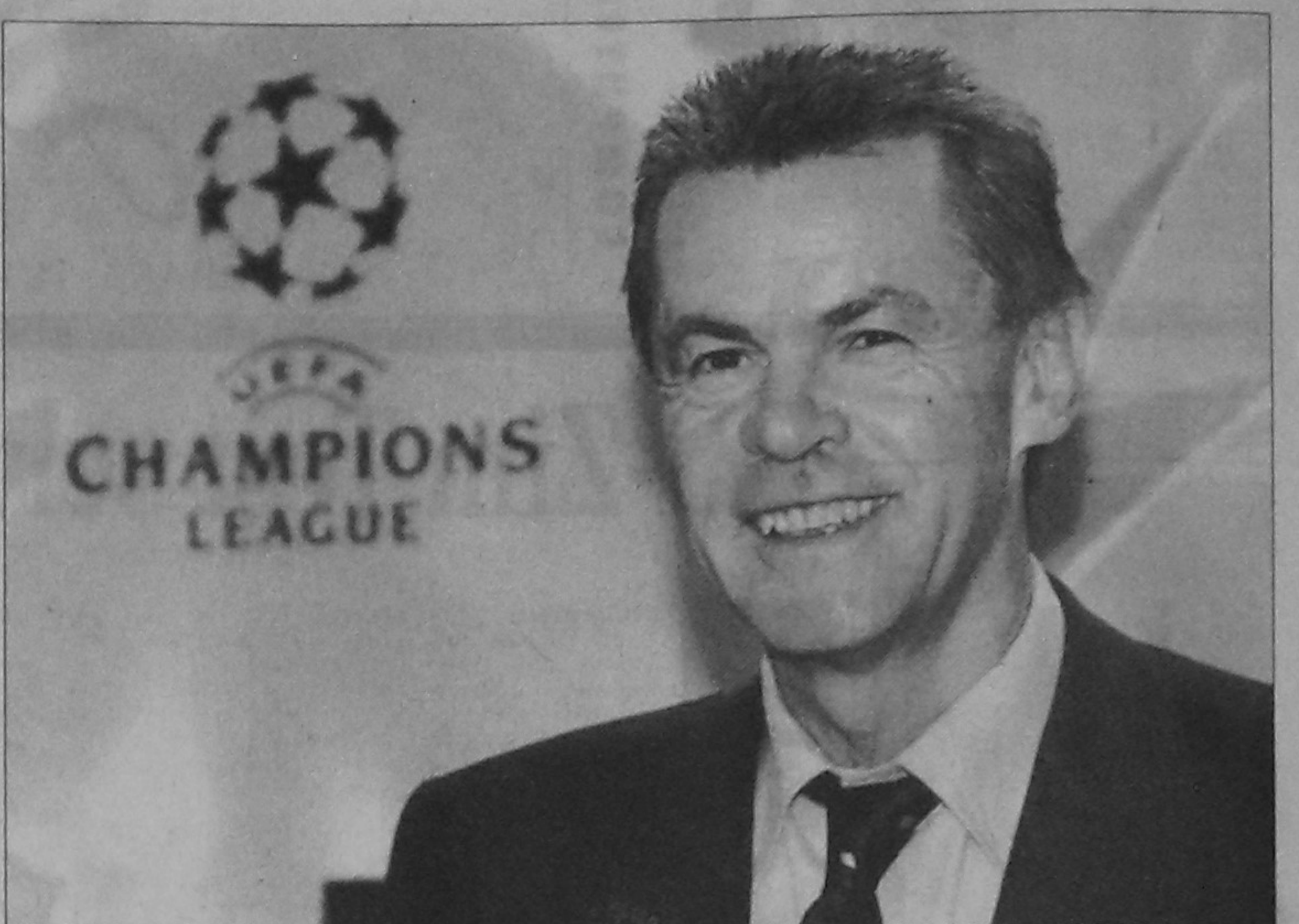
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Bavarian Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld smiles during a media conference on October 22 in Munich ahead of his team's European Champions' League fixture against Helsingborgs. - Internet photo

Top guns set to roll on

PARIS, Oct 23: Proving that the Champions League cash cow has largely had the effect they desired the usual suspects look ready to book second phase spots in the competition this week, reports AFP.

Manchester United, the 1999 winners and Real Madrid, winners last May and in 1998, as well as Juventus and 1999 finalists Bayern Munich all expect to reach the last 16 and ensure once again that Europe's small fry don't get further than the entrance lobby as the serious stuff starts.

Real Madrid should advance from Group A on Wednesday against Sporting Lisbon while United can all but wrap up Group G if they win at Belgium's Anderlecht.

Bayern, having beaten Paris Saint Germain last week, should even without Achilles tendon victim and skipper Stefan Effenberg, make sure of their passage from Group F if they see off Sweden's Helsingborgs in another home fixture.

And Juventus ought to keep up their unbeaten record with a Group E success at home to tailenders Hamburg.

Manchester United, almost invincible in the English Premiership, have come to recognise that European success requires a successful rotation of squad resources and that is just as well as midfielder Roy Keane and in-form striker Teddy Sheringham will miss the Anderlecht game through injury.

Keane has been ruled out after he was substituted with a hamstring injury in the first half of United's 3-0 win over Leeds at Old Trafford.

The Reds skipper joins Teddy Sheringham on the sidelines and the striker will miss the trip to Brussels because of his calf problem.

Ronny Johnsen is also doubtful after he came off at half-time with an ankle knock.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson said: "Roy Keane will miss Tuesday as will Teddy Sheringham, who has a calf

injury. "Both of them are out. Ronny Johnsen came off at half-time with an ankle injury and we'll have to wait and see how he is for Tuesday."

Group G rivals Dynamo Kiev host PSV Eindhoven and with Anderlecht and PSV only a point adrift United cannot count any chickens unless and until they get a result in Belgium.

Kiev hope to overcome the loss of key striker Maxim Shatkhikh, who is on Asian Cup duty with the Uzbek national squad.

Dynamo, currently bottom of the group, must win to keep alive their chances.

"In recent years Dynamo managed to overcome the difficulties to reach the second stage of the Champions' League," Dynamo's head coach Valery Lobanovsky said after last week's loss in Belgium.

"The players have enough skill and experience to win the remaining two matches," he insisted.

Group H is also finely poised but a shock departure could be on the cards if English pretenders Leeds can beat 1992 champions Barcelona.

Leeds lost their match in the Catalan capital 4-0 but the clubs' fortunes have been reversed since and the Yorkshire side now find themselves joint top with AC Milan, who travel to

Besiktas, and three points clear of Tuesday's rivals.

Leeds showed true grit in drawing at Besiktas, where Barca finished well-beaten and even a draw on their own El-Land Road patch could be enough.

Yet with 11 first team regulars out through injury their date with Barcelona could not have fallen at a more inconvenient time, especially with the Catalans' tails up on the back of that 2-0 win over Real Madrid in the Spanish league at the weekend.

Milan are set to recall Argentinian defender Jose Antonio Chamot and Spanish striker Jose Mari for the clash with Besiktas. German striker Oliver Bierhoff the likely sacrifice as he prepares to take his place on the bench.

A Milan success would probably see them win the toughest of groups.

Italian hopes also ride on Juventus, who are expected to start with a strike partnership of Filippo Inzaghi and Yugoslav Darko Kovacevic with the option of a later switch to Alessandro Del Piero and Frenchman David Trezeguet.

Ciro Ferrara is expected to return in defence for Juve.

Group E is nicely poised as Juve and Deportivo La Coruna of Spain - both have six points and are unbeaten.

Tailenders Hamburg are weakened by fact that Iranian striker Mehdi Mahdavia is playing in the Asian Cup while Argentine star midfielder Rodolfo Cardoso has torn a thigh muscle.

Super Depor host Greek side Panathinaikos, who are only a point behind while Hamburg are stranded on just two points.

A win for the Spaniards will mean a place at the top table of the European game in phase two and coach Javier Irureta elected to rest a few top names in Saturday's draw against Real Mallorca.

Brazilian star Djalminha is expected to return having only played 45 minutes at the weekend, as should Uruguayan striker Walter Pandiani.

Barca may be penalised

BARCELONA (Reuters/Internet): Barcelona could be fined by the Spanish Football Federation after plastic bottles, cigarette lighters and two mobile phones were thrown on to the pitch during Saturday's 2-0 victory over Real Madrid.

The RFEF said they would meet this week to discuss all aspects of the game, which saw fans give a torrid reception to Real's Luis Figo on his return to the Nou Camp.

Barcelona are likely to escape serious punishment as the report of referee Alfonso Perez Burrull noted that none of the players was struck by

objects thrown from the crowd. "Throughout the game, all kinds of objects were thrown from the stands - including plastic bottles, lighters, two mobile telephones, paper bags, etc," the referee said.

"More items were thrown every time the visiting team took a corner. At no time was anyone struck."

No other serious incidents were reported by the referee, whose report was published by the RFEF on their Web site.

Real coach Vicente del Bosque said he told Portuguese midfielder Figo not to take corners during the game, a decision that was criticised by the Spanish press.

"I made the decision so that the game would be interrupted as little as possible," Del Bosque explained.

"It's just a detail, though. You can't say we lost the match because Figo didn't take the corners."

Asked about the atmosphere in the stadium, where 98,000 fans were screaming abuse at Figo, del Bosque admitted that the team as a whole had been affected.

"It's obvious that the atmosphere influenced the result," he said. "We weren't centred on the game."

Figo moved from Barcelona to European champions Real in July for a world record \$6.1 million dollars.



CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! Real Madrid maestro Luis Figo closes his ears to stop hearing the venomous boos from Barca fans during their Primera Liga clash at the Nou Camp on October 21. - Internet photo