

Seedorf, Vampeta doesn't please Tardelli

MILAN, Nov 21: Dutchman Clarence Seedorf and Brazilian Vampeta appear to be on a collision course with their Italian first division club Inter Milan...

Both players are currently out of favour with Inter coach Marco Tardelli and neither were in the party that flew out to Berlin on Monday for Tuesday's UEFA Cup match with German outfit Hertha Berlin.

Surinam-born Seedorf turned up at Milan's Malpensa airport but was sent home with a fever.

But Vampeta, who has already complained of homesickness, has asked and sought permission to stay in Brazil for a while longer after being on national team duty.

Tardelli, quoted in Gazzetta dello Sport, said of the Brazilian: "Of his behaviour, like that of Seedorf, I have nothing to say; they are two professionals who are always trying to prove themselves. And I don't forget that."

"At this moment I have made choices and therefore these players - but not only them - are out in the cold. But there is nothing definitive."

Vampeta's agent Giovanni Branchini admitted his client was finding it hard to settle in Milan, saying: "The lad has never shown the desire to leave Inter. If you are out in the cold you are never happy but it has to be said that not all of his performances have been at his real level."

Earlier in the month Vampeta, who only joined Inter in August, said he would return to his former club Corinthians - FIFA's reigning World Club Champions - if he did not win a place in the starting line-up at his new club.

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All set for round two

PARIS, Nov 21: The Champions League phase two kicks off on Tuesday as the top 16 teams...

Europe bid for places in the quarter-finals of the soccer world's premier club competition, reports AFP.

The second phase throws together European giants Bayern Munich, Real Madrid and AC Milan with lesser lights such as Leeds, Sturm Graz and Lyon...

Four groups of four play six matches each, the second in two weeks time with the remaining four ties to be played in February and March.

The top two in each league will then go through to the knock-out last eight.

In Group B injury-hit UEFA Cup holders Galatasaray face a tough trip to Inter Milan on Tuesday as the Turkish team make Champions League history.

"This is the first time that a Turkish team has played in the second stage. We're aiming for a positive result that will motivate us for the next matches," the deputy chairman of the club, Ali Durust, said.

Brazilian goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel, midfielder Bulent Altin and defender Hakan Unsal are all ruled out through injury.

Midfielder Emre Belozoglu, red carded against Austria's Strun Graz on November 7, is banned until Sunday.

Yildirim are both racing for fitness.

"We have had really bad luck with these injuries. But 11 Galatasaray players will be there on the pitch to get the best result," Durust said.

Though Milan's star striker Andriy Shevchenko is on fire, with seven goals from seven matches, the Italians have also been hit by injury as Alessandro Costacurta, Demetrio Albertini and Francesco Colci all miss the tie.

"I would have preferred to see the match than the players," Milan coach Alberto Zaccaroni moaned. Milan are unlikely to lose this match though.

Paris Saint-Germain will hope to recover their early season home form for the other Group B tie where Spanish Champions Deportivo La Coruna aim to be the first side in the competition to steal a point at the Parc des Princes.

But the Parisians may have to defend their European home record without Nicolas Anelka who picked up a muscle strain away at Helsingborgs in phase one. His side have also lost three of their last four league ties.

Phase one Group E winners "Super Depor", as the Spanish champions are called by their fans, have started their domestic defence well and are level top with Valencia. They are also the only unbeaten side in the competition.

Though Deportivo's Brazilian playmaker Djalmirina will be absent at Paris through injury, his Brazil team-mate Cesar Sampaio who picked up a light injury in the World Cup qualifier win over Colombia returns to action in Paris.

In Group A Manchester United host Panathinaikos, both of whom scraped through phase one with important victories on the final day.

The Greeks rested Giorgos Karagounis, Paolo Sousa and Karlheinz Illippen at the weekend and showed the same kind of character that beat Juventus in the last round when they fought back from 2-0 down to get a draw at PAOK.

The English champions should be too much for Panathinaikos. United have won nine of their last 10 league matches and sit five points clear atop the Premiership.

Star player and new England captain David Beckham has added goals to his game this season and has seven in the league, four from free kicks.

Veteran striker Teddy Sheringham, 34, is also in the goals. Top Premiership scorer with 10 strikes, he also has three goals from four Champions League ties this season.

Also in Group A last year's beaten finalists Valencia host the competition's surprise package Austrian champions Sturm Graz, winners of phase one Group D.

Having come back from 5-0 defeats at Rangers and Monaco to finally eliminate both of them, Sturm's opposition should take them a little more seriously in phase two.

Valencia, top of the Spanish league see the return to action of Kily Gonzalez while The Austrian's lost Russian striker Sergei Yuran for six weeks during their weekend victory.

Sturm lie a miserable seventh in a league of ten but Valencia coach Hector Cuper will be aware that they won all three home ties in the first phase.

On Wednesday in Group C Bayern Munich go in to their tie with French side Lyon after two consecutive league defeats. The beaten 1999 finalists have now lost five from 13 in the Bundesliga.

Lyon also lost this weekend after their Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson missed a penalty that should have earned them a point.

His Lyon strike partner Steve Marlet's three Champions League goals in phase one earned him a call-up to the French national squad where he won his first cap in the 4-0 drubbing of Turkey last week.

In Group C's other tie French flavoured Arsenal, who also lost at the weekend, travel north to perennial Russian champions Spartak Moscow who clinched their eighth domestic title in nine years earlier this month.

Spartak also won 4-1 this weekend to book a quarter-final spot in the Russian Cup and should field a full strength side against the Londoners.

Arsenal never at full strength away in Europe, once again leave playmaker Dennis Bergkamp at home due to his costly fear of flying.

Though Arsenal lost 0-2 at Everton at the weekend they have shown great strength in the Champions League so far and pipped Lazio to top spot of Group B in phase one.

Lazio face an interesting trip to Anderlecht in Group D while the group's other big guns Real Madrid travel to Leeds who qualified at the expense of Barcelona.

Lazio go into the tie off the back of two domestic draws against AC Milan and Juventus so are not waiting in terms of match practice. However, their two Argentine stars Juan Veron and Claudio Lopez are out injured.

Anderlecht won their Group D tie in the last round defeating all comers at home, including Manchester United, so will be confident to take at least a point from the Roman favourites.

Current champions Real Madrid should give another run out to English midfielder Steve McManaman for the unpredictable clash at Leeds. Though told in the summer that he was surplus to requirement after the arrival of Luis Figo, McManaman is edging his way back into the reckoning and his English experience could prove invaluable.

Italians divided on new football chief

ROME, Nov 21: The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) Monday failed to reach agreement on who should be their new president, reports AFP.

The incumbent candidate Luciano Nizzola and his challenger Giancarlo Abete both failed to garner the required number of supporters in four separate votes on Thursday.

A new vote will be held on December 18.

Zaragoza eying Esnaider

ZARAGOZA, Spain, Nov 21: Spanish Primera Liga outfit Real Zaragoza are negotiating with Italian Serie A side Juventus for the transfer of Argentine striker Juan Eduardo Esnaider, the press reported here Monday, reports AFP.

"We're now going to negotiate with Juventus with more energy and hope. But things are more difficult than foreseen," said Zaragoza president Alfonso Solans after the club placed a lowly 13th in the Spanish league, defeated Barcelona 3-1 Sunday.

Solans said that he was confident of reaching a rapid solution particularly as Esnaider was keen to return to Zaragoza where he played between 1993 and 1995.

"Juventus have been slow reaching agreement for reasons we don't understand," added Solans.

Esnaider has failed to feature regularly since moving to Juventus from the Spanish league in January 1999.

As well as playing at Zaragoza he had stints with Spanish clubs Real Madrid (1992-93 and 1995-96), Atletico Madrid (1996-97) and Espanyol (1997-99).

The former Liverpool man has called for the "spirit of Manchester when we travel to Leeds".

He was referring to Real's quarter-final second leg tussle with United last season when, having drawn at the Bernabeu, the Spaniards won 3-2 at Old Trafford to knock out the then holders.

"The way Leeds play at home is similar to Manchester," McManaman said.

"We will have to put them under as much pressure as possible from the start and watch them on the counter attack," he added.

Noting that Barcelona, whom Leeds beat to a place in the second phase, had already drawn with David O'Leary's English Premiership side, McManaman insisted: "If we play like Barca did at Elland Road then I'm sure we'll win."

But Leeds slaughtered Bekkiss 6-0, drew 1-1 with Barcelona and edged past AC Milan 1-0 in their three phase one home ties. No-one should relish a trip to Elland Road.

Makaay lost the first trial into the case but on Monday a court in the Canary Islands accepted his argument that he had accepted the deal under pressure and ordered the club to pay him the amount he had conceded.

Makaay was top scorer in Spain last season with 22 goals, a feat which earned him a place in the Dutch Euro 2000 squad.

The result, rather than the performance, pleased Ipswich manager George Burley. "I'm very pleased with the three points. But it was our worst performance as far as passing it is concerned."

"Overall it was a good win without us playing particularly well - but it proved we can dig a result out as well as playing well," said Burley.

Goalscorer Wilnis said: "I thought it's the last minute' so I just went forward. It was a great ball - I just had to flick it in."

"We weren't at our best here but getting three points was important."

"We never gave up. The spirit in our team is tremendous."

"It is time people realised that you cannot sell a player without that player's permission. Sol's stand is that he is not going anywhere until he sees his contract out."

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Court orders Tenerife to pay off Makaay

TENERIFE, Spain, Nov 21: Spanish Second Division side Tenerife were ordered to pay their former Dutch international striker Roy Makaay 1.4 million dollars here Monday after a row over a buy-out clause, reports AFP.

The 25-year-old Makaay moved from Tenerife after they were relegated, joining Spanish champions Deportivo La Coruna in a 6.6-million-dollar deal instead of the 19 million dollars stipulated in the get-out clause in his contract.

The 1.4 million dollars represent the figure Tenerife pushed the player into conceding to get out of his contract.

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Campbell to leave Spurs for free

LONDON, Nov 21: Tottenham Hotspur manager George Graham admitted Monday that they cannot sell Sol Campbell and the club have resigned themselves to losing him for nothing at the end of the season, reports AFP.

The England defender's contract runs out in the summer, and Manchester United are favourites to sign him on a Bosman Ruling free transfer.

Graham told the Evening Standard: "We know that even if we accepted a transfer fee, Sol wouldn't go. It's important that the fans know that."

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