

French First Div  
**Sedan spank PSG**

PARIS, Dec 3: Plus N'Diaye hit a hat-trick as Sedan thrashed Paris St Germain 5-1 on Saturday - a result that prompted the dismissal of PSG coach Philippe Bergeron, reports Reuters.

Nantes tamed En Avant Guingamp 2-1 to take over at the top of the French first division as previous leaders Girondins Bordeaux had their 15-match unbeaten run ended 1-0 at Troyes.

"We never imagined we could suffer such a setback," said PSG general manager Laurent Perpere after he had sacked Bergeron.

"We could have waited a little longer had it been a small defeat or a draw, but tonight we reached the bottom and we were unable to bounce back anymore."

"It was better to stop all this now. The players don't have confidence in themselves anymore. We are scared to play."

Perpere said he was considering offering the job to former player and coach Luis Fernandez who led PSG to the 1996 European Cup's Winners' Cup.

Perpere said he wanted the issue resolved before the Champions League match at Galatasaray on Wednesday.

Struggling PSG have taken only one point from their last six league games and also been beaten by Deportivo Coruna in the Champions League.

N'Diaye opened the scoring for Sedan in the third minute but PSG equalised through Laurent Robert, who lifted his tally to 11 goals from 18 games.

N'Diaye slotted home two more goals in before Moussa N'Diaye made it 4-1 the 72nd minute and Cedric Monnet added a late fifth.

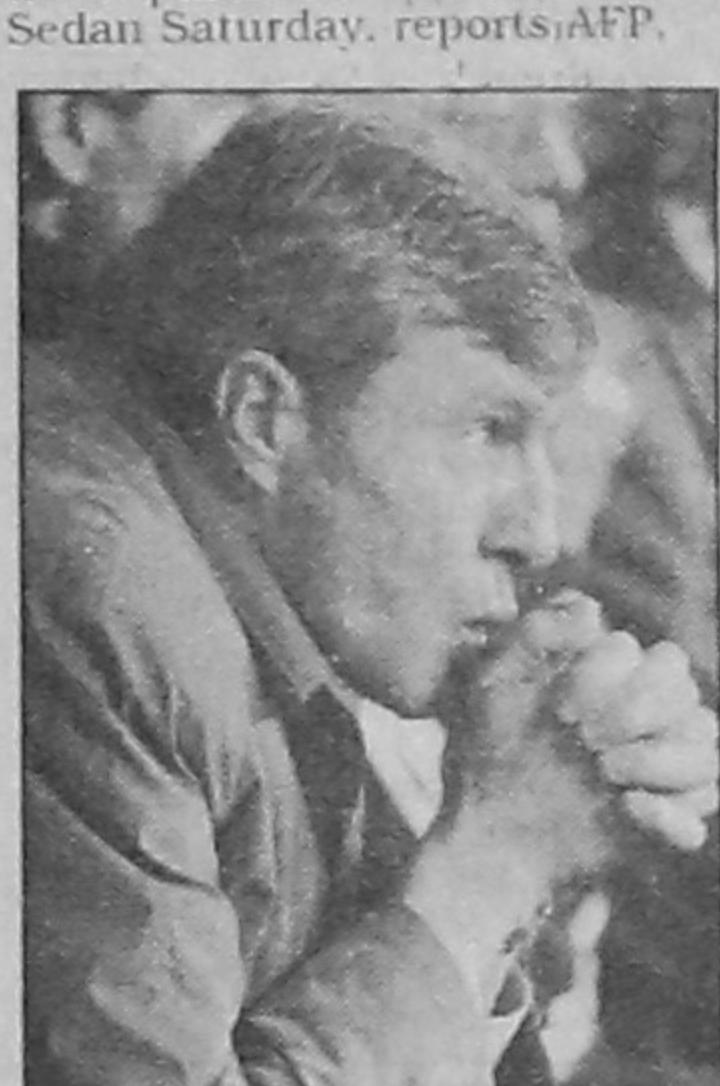
Sedan moved from third to second on 33 points, level with Nantes who had to wait for an 80th minute penalty by Eric Carriere to seal victory.

The sides also have the same goal difference but Nantes went top on goals scored. Bordeaux dropped to third.

"We are the first side to complete five consecutive victories since the season started," boasted Nantes captain Michael Landreau.

**Fernandez returns as coach**

PARIS, Dec 3: Luis Fernandez has been named coach of crisis-ridden Paris Saint Germain, replacing Philippe Bergeron who was sacked following the capital side's 5-1 defeat at Sedan Saturday, reports AFP.



LUIS FERNANDEZ

Fernandez won 61 caps for France and was part of the side which won the 1984 European championships. He captained PSG when playing in the capital between 1978-1986 and coached them from 1994-1996.

Bergeron, the 46-year-old former international goalkeeper who rescued PSG when he took over in May 1999 to guide them into the Champions League for the first time this season, paid the price for collecting just one point from the last 18.

But he was gracious in defeat and admitted that his sacking was "logical" given the team's recent run of results.

"I won't be the first coach to be sacked, nor will I be the last," he said on French TV Saturday night following the PSG defeat.

He added: "The interest of the team must be looked after, and all things considered if this sacking is a logical end to my term here."

**Vampetta's ultimatum**

REIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 3: Brazilian international midfielder Vampetta has hit struggling Italian giants Inter Milan with an ultimatum claiming he would leave the club if he didn't see a return to first team action before the New Year, Brazil's press reported on Saturday.

The 26-year-old former PSV Eindhoven player was called up for international duty for the Brazil-Venezuela World Cup 2002 qualifier in October and has failed to break back into Marco Tardelli's Inter side since.

"For now I don't want to leave, but I'll go anywhere where my football is appreciated if I don't play before the end of the year."

"I want to play, the bench is no use to me," said the man who once posed naked in a gay magazine.

Vampetta, a regular international, arrived at Milan last season in a 15 million dollar deal with the club he describes as "the team of my heart" Corinthians, who are said to be interested in re-signing him.

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