BARI. Italy. Jan 5: English Premiership champions Manchester United have joined a host of Italian clubs in the race to sign Bari's teenage prodigy Antonio Cassano. Corriere dello Sport reported Friday, reports

Cassano, 18, is seen as one of the hottest prospects in Italian football and Bari president Vincenzo Matarrese conceded he would eventually have to let his prize asset go, although he vowed he would hang onto the youngster until the summer.

But Matarrese also told the newspaper that United and other foreign clubs had joined Serie A giants AS Roma, Juventus. AC and Inter Milan in the race for the youngster's signature.

Mataresse said: "I am very good friends with (Roma chairman Franco) Sensi but also with (Juventus director Antonio) Giraudo and the Agnelli family.

"It is difficult to know what will happen because Manchester United and other foreign teams are also interested in Cassano. Bari will choose the most advantageous option economically for the club.

Inter are also known to be interested in Cassano. The Milan club's coach Marco Tardelli worked closely with the youngster when in charge of the Italian under-21 side while AC Milan have also been monitoring the player.

England to have more talks with Eriksson

LONDON, Jan 5: The Football Association (FA) are to have another round of talks with England's coach-in-waiting Sven-Goran Eriksson in a fortnight, reports AFP.

Chief executive Adam Crozier will head the governing body's delegation to Italy, where they will also meet representatives from Eriksson's club La-

Swedish coach Eriksson is scheduled to take up his duties in the summer after signing a five-year contract.

Leicester manager Peter Taylor and Manchester United number two Steve McClaren will again be caretaker coaches for the friendly against Spain on February 28 at Villa Park.

But the FA have made no secret of the fact they would like Eriksson in place if at all possible for the next World Cup qualifier against Finland on March 24.

His role at Lazio has continually been subject to speculation as they have endured an indifferent season.

However, the Rome club are still involved in the Champions League though a home defeat by Leeds United has placed vears at Dens Park, reports the game and for success," said their progress in the competi-

tion in considerable doubt, FA chief executive Adam Crozier told the Press Association on Thursday: "We will be going to Italy in two weeks to take the discussions forward. We want to know exactly where

we stand. "It is only proper we talk to people at Lazio as well as Sven. We have to go through the proper channels. What we have

to remember is that he. Peter

and Steve are a team. "Everyone knows that Sven is one of the top three coaches in the world.

"His track record is phenomenal and he is a terrific coach. Sir Alex Ferguson said at

Christmas how highly he rates

Villa still optimistic

that the signing of Colombian international striker Juan Pablo Angel for a club record 9.5million pounds (12.4million dollars) would go ahead, reports

is being held up because Angel's agent Gustavo Muscardi the River Plate player - is asking for commission of 1.2 million dollars.

It was suggested that Angel was being prevented from pay Muscardi.

Villa manager John Gregory might have to resurrect a deal for Celta Vigo striker Benni McCarthy because the Angel deal was in danger of collaps-

But the club remains confident that Angel will link up with the club next week - providing he passes a medical - in time to make his debut against

Mepham said: "There is no hitch. The plan is still to bring Angel over here well in time to

prepare for the game with Liv-

Maradona's father in hospital

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 5: The father of Argentinian football legend Diego Maradona was taken to hospital here Thursday suffering from fluid on the lung.

doctors said, reports AFP. The 72-year-old - known here simply as 'Don Diego' was in a stable condition, doctors said.



JARI LITMANEN

Litmanen now a Liverpool man



insisted the arrival of Finnish in ternational striker Jari Litmanen on Thursday does not mean Robbie Fowler's departure from Anfield is imminent, reports

The Liverpool manager tied up the final details of the free transfer signing of Litmanen, who was a member of the Ajax side that won the 1995 European Cup and reached the final in 1996, from Spanish giants Barcelona on Thursday, and the 29-year-old trained with his

new team-mates. Despite speculation that yet another late-night incident involving Fowler in Liverpool city centre could hasten his departure. Houllier clearly sees Litmanen as an addition rather than a replacement.

Houllier, who has been chasing Litmanen for two years. said that he needed another striker with the recent departures of Erik Meijer and Titi Camara.

"I remember when we didn't have enough strikers because of injuries so it is vital for us to

tinian World Cup Peter Marr.

Dundee by sign

Ivano Bonetti believes Canig-

can spur the rest of the team on

agreeing to a six-month deal.

Caniggia was offered the op-

at Dens Park in October and

player-manager

stressed," the former French national coach said.

With Liverpool's packed New Year schedule, which will include vital games in three cup competitions. Houllier does not want to sell his former captain, despite Fowler's indifferent

Fowler, who did not exactly fully endorse Houllier's suggestion that he would be staying on when he said on Sunday he was happy at Liverpool 'for the minute', will instead compete with Emile Heskey, Michael Owen and now Litmanen for a place in the starting line-up.

Chief executive Colin view that the Londoners would

be interested in signing the player if Liverpool gave the go could include matches in the them before

FA Cup, UEFA Cup and League his best players available. The arrival of Litmanen, a to me.

Caniggia staying at Dundee

have at least four here. This is player Houllier wanted to sign something we have always when the forward was with Ajax, has excited the French coach

> "He's one of the most exciting signings we have made. We have signed a world class player. He comes with a reputation that needs no improvement." Houllier said.

Litmanen, a close friend of Liverpool defender and countryman Sami Hyvpia, was exceptional in recent internationals against England and Wales.

A deep-lying forward who plays well in the hole behind the strikers, he is qualified to play in all four competitions Liverpool are contesting, as he Liverpool are aware of Chel- has not played for Barcelona in sea's continued interest in either the Champions League or UEFA Cup this season. "It has always been my

Hutchison has reiterated his dream to play for Liverpool." said Litmanen, regarded as Finland's best ever player. "I have supported them since

I was a child and there has But with a schedule that been talk about me joining

"I seem to have been linked Cup in an 11-day period in with every club in Europe but February. Houllier wants all of it's no secret that Liverpool have always been very special

Caniggia coming to Dens Park, I

thought he was pulling my leg.

Dortmund contract

DORTMUND, Germany, Jan 5: German World Cup winning defender Jurgen Kohler extended his contract for a yearand-a-half with German league higflyers Borussia Dortmund it was revealed on Thursday, reports AFP.

The 35-year-old, who was capped 105 times and was a member of the 1990 World Cup winning side and the Dortmund team which beat Juventus 3-1 in the 1997 European Cup. will play up till June 2002 and is likely to move into scouting and AFP marketing with the club after Viis contract ends.

Poborsky arrives in Rome

ROME. Jan 5: Benfica's Czech international midfielder Karel Poborsky arrived at Rome's Firmicino airport Friday to sign an 18-month contract with Italian champions Lazio, reports AFP.

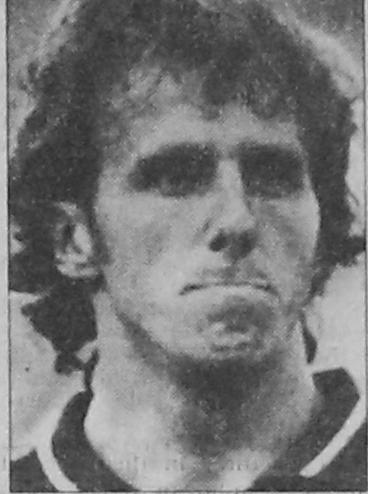
A deal had been struck by the player's representatives and the Italian club in Prague on Thursday and all that remains is for the player to put pen to paper and undergo a medical.

However, it is now thought that he will not be available for Sunday's match at the Olympic Stadium with Napoli and is more likely to take his bow against Udinese a week later.

The fee is a modest 3.5 million dollars, according to the ANSA agency, and the 29-yearold will fill the berth on the right side of midfield vacated by Portuguese international Sergio Conceicao who joined Parma in the close season. Poborsky was the third per

son Lazio had sought to fill the problem position. Initially club president Ser

gio Cragnotti sought to persuade Udinese to allow Italian international Stefano Fiore to move to Rome earlier than expected - Fiore is expected to join the Italian champions in the summer.



KAREL POBORSKY

They also tried and failed to lure their former player Paolo Di Canio from English Premiership club West Ham United Lazio are hoping Poborsky will be available for selection for

Sunday's home match at the Olympic Stadium with Napoli although he is likely to start on the bench. Poborsky first came to

prominence as a member of the Czech Republic team that reached the Euro 96 final, losing 2-1 to Germany at Wemblev.

The blond-haired midfielder was an integral part of that highly-regarded Czech side and scored an outstanding goal past revered Portuguese 'keeper Vitor Baia: leading to interest from a number of top clubs.

miership giants Manchester United for season 1996/1997 but was eclipsed by the emergence of David Beckham on the right side of midfield and moved

fresh contract

Uruguayan striker Alvaro Recoba Thursday signed a fiveand-a half year contract with the San Siro side, the club's website reported, reports AFP. Recoba, whose agent Paco Casal agreed the deal with Inter negotiator Rinaldo Ghelfi before Christmas, put pen to paper on

The website did not give details on the financial terms but if media speculation proves well founded it is the most lucrative

Fowler misses FA Cup clash

football.

Fowler for Saturday's FA Cup third round clash with Rotherham at Anfield and British press reports said he was restwas appointed player/coach ing in Spain, reports AFP. Fowler has been given time

off torecover from minor facial injuries suffered in a fracas outside a nightclub in the early from Corsica will be hoping to hours of Wednesday. Speculation is mounting

nish international Jari Litmanen on Thursday signals the end of Fowler's time at the club. But manager Gerard Houllier is insisting that he wants Fowler to stay so the club can operate with four strikers

Owen and Emile Heskey. The Independent newspaper

Kohler extends | Serie A preview

Battle for Milan supremacy



ter takes centre Scudetto in 18 years. stage this week

after the festive break but such team and Inter visitors thereare the parlous domestic fortunes of both San Siro clubs chial affair with only city pride the matches that really count take place elsewhere, reports

A glance at the table reveals the main incentive. that Saturday night's meeting at Turin between second-placed Juventus and fast-improving critical for Inter who continue Fiorentina and Sunday afternoon's match at Bergamo be- crises tween third-placed Atalanta and First Division leaders AS Roma are of far more significance than the encounter between sixth-placed AC and Inter, languishing in 11th.

But, rightly or wrongly, it is the San Siro showpiece that takes the Sunday evening slot traditionally awarded to the deemed to be the biggest game of the week and both Milan sides - like the other underachieving northern giants Juventus - hope the new year will herald an end to the 12-month supremacy of the Roman clubs.

It was somehow appropriate in the millennium year - given the Eternal City's association with the Gregorian calendar that the two teams from the Italian capital wrenched the spotlight away from the traditional footballing powerbase in the north.

The year 2000 started with Juventus top of the pile but by May Lazio had overturned a deficit that, with just seven weeks to go, was nine points to take the title on the last day of the season - their first in 26

And all roads continued to

MILAN. Jan 5: lead to Rome this season with to Roma at the turn of the year. The Milan derby Roma establishing a six-point lead by the end of the year and tween AC and in- looking on course for a first

The San Siro clash where AC end as Italian football resumes Milan are nominally the home fore seems a somewhat paroand the chance to gain the momentum needed to challenge

> If the match is an important one for Milan, it is even more to reel under a succession of

for a Champions League spot

joined the Inter payroll from Montevideo giants Penarol this week but two more forwards, Robbie Keane and Ivan Zamorano, had already left in December. Another Uruguayan striker tage of that.

Alvaro Recoba was fined by a committee of his team-mates, by the signing of Czech winger for storining out of the Decem- Karel Poborsky from Benfica, ber 23 victory over Atalanta host Napoli while Parma hope after being substituted by coach to end a disappointing se-Marco Tardelli and French defender Laurent Blanc said he victory against bottom club might leave in the summer. Such turmoil in the dressing Davide Dionigi from Sampdoria.

room is seen as just another week at Inter but at least Tar- while Brescia visit Bologna. delli only has one player ruled out for the derby - Colombian Verona while on Saturday afdefender Ivan Cordoba.

Milan can thank their lucky Vicenza. stars that Ukrainian Andriy Shevchenko is still scoring freely and unlike Inter they are still in the Champions League.

Juventus are not in the same plight as the two Milan Juventus v Fiorentina (19:30 clubs and while the year 2000 GMT) was a blank year trophy-wise. statistics show they were the Roma, Bologna v Brescia, Lazio best team in terms of points v Napoli, Lecce v Verona, Parma won in the First Division, hav- v Reggina, Perugia v Udinese, ing finished runners-up to Lazio AC Milan v Inter Milan (19:30 in May and also in second spot GMT)

But they will face tough opposition in the form of Florentina whose recent strong run

has lifted them to fifth. Unlike most coaches who do not like to mention the word "Scudetto" (Championship) until it is safely in the bag the Florence outfit's Turkish coach Fatih Terim is freely speaking

Juve will lend weight to his confidence. Roma are so confident of victory at Atalanta that coach Fabio Capello has hinted he will rest Batistuta and give Vin-

the S-word and victory against

Uruguayan Antonio Pacheco cenzo Montella a rare start. Atalanta were the surprise packages of the autumn programme but there were signs that they were beginning to falter before Christmas and Roma hope to take full advan-

Champions Lazio, bolstered quence of results with a home Reggina, who Thursday signed

Perugia entertain Udinese Leece is the destination for ternoon Bari make the trip to

FIXTURES (1400 GMT unless stated)

Saturday: Vicenza v Bari. Sunday: Atalanta v AS

Primera Liga preview

Another Toshack return



Real Zaragoza will be aiming to spoil John Toshack's return for his third spell as Real Sociedad coach as Spain's

Primera Liga swings back into action after the winter break this weekend, reports AFP. Toshack controversially quit

St Etienne on Wednesday after just 10 weeks at the French club to accept the challenge of lifting Real Sociedad off the bottom of the Spanish First

"The side is in a difficult situation but there is enough time to rescue it." said Toshack who led Real Madrid to the

points from 16 games, but are

At the other end of the table, Real Madrid, second in the league but equal on 32 points with top-placed Valencia, travel to seventh-placed Alaves, whose striker Javi Moreno is the league's top scorer with 13

Alaves' central defender Oscar Tellez said: "It is always a big match when we play Real Teams like us can increase

our standing with a victory," he

Valencia must pick themselves up for their match against Real Santander after being eliminated from the Spanish Cup on Wednesday by Third Division Guadix.

The minnows made a mockfinalists, who have the best Real Mallorca, Espanyol v Nuone of four sides including Nu- defence in the league this sea- mancia. Celta Vigo v Las Palmancia, Racing Santander and son, as they drew 4-4 after ex- mas. Osasuna v Villareal,

Barcelona, in fourth place since their form improved dramatically after a poor start to the season, play away to ninth. placed Oviedo, another team

unbeaten at home this season.

Another team to fall in the

Spanish Cup. Deportivo La

Coruna, travel to Real Vallado-

lid, who are languishing in 15th

place but are unbeaten at their

Jose Zorrilla stadium this sea-

Harrist the mored Vo 7 could FIXTURES Saturday (2000 GMT):

Malaga v Athletic Bilbao Sunday (1600 GMT unless stated): Valenica v Racing Santander, Real Valladolid v Deportivo La Coruna, Alaves v Real Sociedad have just 12 erv of last year's European Cup Real Madrid, Rayo Vallecano v

Osasuna separated by just four tra time before losing on penal- Oviedo v Barcelona (1900 GMT)

could prove timely for Arsenal's

north London rivals Tottenham.

who have won the trophy when

the year ends in 'one', five of

their eight Cup victories taking

place in 1901, 1921, 1961,

vssev starts with an awkward

trip to east London where they

face Third Division Levton Ori-

is Yeovil. They have been em-

barrassing league teams in the

will approach their tie against

the Somerset club with some

sure, however. Despite the vast

inequalities in wealth that now

will be a Cup shock somewhere.

known much about football but

when it comes to the FA Cup all

players have a real chance to be

"famous for 15 minutes" and

FIXTURES (1500GMT unless

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

Saturday: Blackburn v

then some.

exist in English football there

Andy Warhol may not have

FA Cup for the best part of 50

years and First Division Bolton

Of one thing you can be

Tottenham's 2001 Cup od-

Another club to look out for

1981 and 1991.

FA Cup preview

Red Devils are back



Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson is ruling out a repeat of his 1999 treble as the Red Devils

season's absence. Ferguson's rampant reds face Jean Tigana's run-away First Division leaders on Sunday in the pick of the ties as FA Cup third round action takes the English football centre-

return to the FA Cup against

Fulham this weekend after a

United's last appearance in the competition came in the 1999 final where they beat Newcastle 2-0 just days before clinching the treble with victory in the European Cup in Barce-

They controversially gave the world-famous knockout tournament a miss last season, swapping the midwinter FA Cup grind for the sunshine of Rio de Janeiro and the inaugural FIFA for Europe World Club Championship.

FA Cup.

But though United have Champions League second United phase group. Ferguson is ruling out a repeat of the 1999 silver- takes place against the back- Derby v West Brom. Huddersware clean sweep.

"A lot of things went in our

favour last time, no injuries last time the FA Cup left Engleading up to the final, with land it was thanks to Cardiff only Roy Keane having a slight City, who beat Arsenal 1-0 in Wednesday v Norwich, Southankle injury... I don't think it 1927. will ever happen again. I'm ruling out the treble," Ferguson sisted his brand new jumper

and have won the FA Cup a wears an already-used top.

Fulham go into Sunday's travel to Carlisle, who are prop- chester United (1300GMT). Old Trafford showdown still ping up the rest of the League reeling from the news that at the bottom of the Third Diviskipper Chris Coleman will take sion. Anything other than an v Wolverhampton

Richter scale. Another piece of cup folklore

coached his team into a sevenpoint lead at the top of the First Division, will also be anxious for an improvement on his side's shock New Year's Day defeat at Stockport.

"I don't think anything tacti-

cally can stop them - we have just got to give it our very best shot and hope that they have the off day they don't seem to be having at the moment,' Taylor added.

cially as it qualifies the winners

British bookmakers - many Premiership tie. Bradford City, of whom have stopped taking struggling in bottom place debets on United to win the Pre- spite bringing in new manager miership - have already in- Jim Jeffries from Hearts, face stalled Ferguson's team as fellow league strugglers Midheavy favourites for this year's dlesbrough, who sit third from stated) bottom.

Cup holders Chelsea, having Chester. Bolton v Yeovil. swept all before them in the a tough time away from home Bournemouth v Gillingham. Premiership this season and sit in the Premiership, entertain Burnley v Scunthorpe, Cardiff v comfortably atop of their Second Division Peterborough Crewe, Carlisle v Arsenal, This week's third round bridge. Chelsea v Peterborough.

drop of news that this year's field v Bristol City. Leeds v "No, we won't get that." final will be held at the Millen- Barnsley, Leicester v York. Ferguson said when asked of nium Stadium in Wales with Leyton Orient v Tottenham. his team's treble chance this Wembley in the process of being Liverpool v Rotherham. Luton v

The Arsenal goalkeeper in-

had played a key part in him A double could well be a conceding the vital goal and to possibility though. United are this day, whenever Arsenal 11 points clear in the league reach the final, their goalkeeper The current Highbury team

combe v Grimsby Sunday: Fulham v Man-Newcastle v Aston Villa

(1600GMT). Nottingham Forest Monday: Bradford City

about Angel LONDON, Jan 5: Aston Villa said Friday they were confident

Reports claim that the deal who owns half of the contract of

boarding a plane to Birmingham until Villa guaranteed to There are also rumours that

Liverpool on January 13. Aston Villa spokesman Phil for a surprise win on Sunday. The most attractive topflight

> fixtures to feature First Division clubs after the Bordeaux Lille match. fifth in the league only two points behind their third-placed opponents, lost former star

Bordeaux on Wednesday. However Jacques Santini's side have an excess of firepower the rights for the opening game. with the French-Brazilian duo

ing a contract on Thursday to player but, just as important. stay a further two-and-a-half he still has a big appetite for said Marr. Bonetti. "There is no doubt that his

quality and mentality have had gia's commitment to the team a positive effect on the squad. "His attitude and manner to a top six place in the Scottish make him as popular with his team-mates as he is with the Caniggia, 33, signed a longer fans and we are all delighted

that make him an exceptional

"I am pleased for Claudio, portunity to resurrect his career the club. Dundee's fans and myself that he will be staying has scored five times since his with us." Bonetti said.

But Peter Marr admitted

Jan the club under chairman said Coniggia would come to 5: Former Argen- Jimmy Marr and chief executive Dundee Dundee "I have to admit that when star Claudio Can- . "I think Claudio has shown Ivano Bonetti lirst mentioned delighted that he still has the qualities the possibility of Claudio

> "But he is happy here and. for the foreseeable future at least, here to stay. "I am delighted that Claudio has chosen to extend his stay

> > at Dundee.

"There is no doubt that he has set the Premier League alight since his arrival and has contract after originally only that he will be with us for a proven that he is an undoubted longer time. world class talent. "His commitment to the club

> over the last three months has been outstanding - both on and off the field. Caniggia is out of the coun-

try for the start of the winter

Bonetti insisted the longer that he thought Bonetti had contract proves the ambition of been joking when he originally French First Division preview

Big guns' test of calibre

David meets Goliath as the French league pits a

Dundee

Premier League.

number of worthy challengers against the league's top sides in the battle for the last 16 places in the French League Cup, reports Second Division side Gueugnon surprised everyone

last year with a fairytale 2-0

win over Paris Saint Germain in

the final at the Stade de France. While the holders have not performed well in the Second Division this season and are pretty much out of the promotion race, lying in ninth place 16 points off third-placed Lorient, they must fancy their chances against ailing champi-

ons Monaco on Sunday. the Principality it will probably cost Claude Puel his post at Monaco and make him the seventh coaching casualty of the season.

Puel, who stunned many observers by guiding the side to million dollars), the daily Suedthe title last season, has enjoyed a stay of execution after league results have left Monaco fourth from bottom, but club president Jean-Louis Campora is unlikely to be so generous if release a statement about the

this Saturday - one of only two

of Steve Marlet and Sonny An-

derson which in league terms helped lorge the best detence in would be enough to worry the the league with only 15 goals side known as the 'Wild Boars'. conceded from 22 games. But as Gueugnon proved

last year, anything can happen scored Lille need to ensure their in the unpredictable competi- own proficiency up front if they tion, which comprises all teams are to harbour any hope of adinvolved in France's top two vancing. divisions, and Bordeaux would be wise to ensure that new arri- away at training camp over the val Vairelles is adequately fired winter break, will have home

up to face Lille. The men from the north

German channels to buy WC 2002 rights

MUNICH. Germany, Jan 5: ing change of the season as Should Gueugnon prevail in The German public television they host 'Les Verts' at home in channels ARD and ZDF plan to buy some of the broadcasting rights for the football 2002 World Cup from media giant Kircli for a record 225 million marks (115 million euros, 109 deutsche Zeitung reported on

reached agreement in principle with ARD and ZDF. We will the "Forgers" steel themselves details of the deal soon." a Kirch spokesman told AFP. He declined to comment making it hard for any visiting clash is Sedan's hosting of Lyon further, on either the amount of money changing hands or the

date when the deal would be

the semi-finals and the final, it

added.

"We can confirm that we've Garcia.

Friday, reports AFP.

announced. The newspaper report, Lyon, sitting a respectable quoting an executive from ARD, said that ARD and ZDF would buy the rights for 24 of the 64 matches, to be held in Japan striker Tony Vairelles on loan to and South Korea, for a record 10 million marks per match. The purchase would include

But with only 24 goals

Bordeaux, who have been

advantage. But while they sit in a rehave the ever-helpful touchline spectable fourth place after a presence of vociferous coach mid-season surge. Elie Baup's Vahid Halilhodzie who has side are not impregnable at home and have injury doubts over Belgian international for-

ward Marc Wilmots (back) and

meanwhile, will be looking to

take full advantage of Saint

Etienne's second major coach-

Second Division side Ajaccio.

Pascal Feindouno.

Saint Etienne coach John Toshack walked out of the struggling club, who sit in 13th position, to rejoin his former side Real Sociedad and team captain Jean-Guy Wallemme

alongside assistant coach Rudy

sacked in October, and the boxs

imitate their First Division

Robert Nouzaret had been

neighbours', Bastia, record of FIXTURES Friday: Rennes v Nantes,

Cannes v Valence

Toulouse v Niort, Sedan v Lyon Sunday: Nancy v Paris SG, Strasbourg v Chateauroux, Wasquehal v Metz, Monaco v Gueugnon. Troyes v Creteil. Lens v Nimes, Bastia v Nice

Saturday: Le Havre v Mar-

seille. Bordeaux v Lille, Auxerre

v Red Star, AC Ajaccio v Saint

Etienne, Guingamp v Amiens.

He moved to English Pre-

Recoba signs

MILAN, Jan 5: Inter Milan's

the deal that expires on June contract in the history of Italian

LONDON. Jan 5: Liverpool will be without striker Robbie

week. that Liverpool's signing of Fin-

reported on Friday that Fowler had flown to Spain to be with his friend, former Liverpool player Steve McManaman, who has battled his way back into the Real Madrid first team.

Fowler, Litmanen, Michael

a car crash this week. Manager Tigana, who has

"It is going to be a formidable task. We will have to be at our very best even to stand a chance but hopefully we can do and stranger things have happened," Fulham goalkeeper ent Maik Taylor said.

One of only two all Premiership clashes sees Newcastle host last season's beaten finalists Aston Villa on Sunday, Cup victory would rescue either side from a methocre season, espe-

In the only other all-

no further part in their season Arsenal win would prove a * after shattering his right leg in seismic shock on the football Middlesbrough (2000 GMT)

Charlton v Dagenham and Red-

QPR. Manchester City v Bir-And in a curious twist the mingham. Morecambe v lpswich. Portsmouth v Tranmere, Preston v Stockport, Sheffield ampton v Sheffield United. Southend v Kingstoman, Simderland v Crystal Palace, Swindon v Coventry. Walsall v West Ham, Watford v Everton, Wimbledon v Notts County. Wy-