#### Galatasaray, Real in World Club Championship

REUTERS, Geneva

UEFA Cup and European Super Cup winners Galatasaray and European champions Real Madrid will represent Europe at the sec ond World Club Championship from July 29 to August 12 in Spain. FIFA said on Thursday.

Corinthians of Brazil, who beat Vasco da Gama in the final 12 months ago, will not have the chance the defend their title.

#### THE 12 TEAMS ARE:

Jubilo Iwata (Japan) - Winners Asian Super Cup 1999 Al-Hilal (Saudi Arabia) - Winners Asian Super Cup 2000

Africa Acera Hearts of Oak (Ghana) Winners CAF Champions League 2000 Zamalek (Egypt) - Winners CAF Cup of Cup Winners 2000

CONCACAF Los Angeles Galaxy (U.S.) 2000 CONCACAF Champions Cup winners CD Olimpia (Honduras) - 2000 CONCACAF Champi ons' Cup runners-up

South America Palmeiras (Brazil) - Winners Copa Libertadores 1999 Boca Juniors (Argentina) - Winners Copa Libertadores 2000

Oceania Wollongong Wolves (Australia) - 2001 Oceania Champions' Cup winners

Europe Real Madrid (Spain) - Winner of the 2000 Champions League

Galatasaray (Turkey) - Winner of the 2000 UEFA Super Cup Spain (host country) Deportivo La Coruna - Spanish champions 1999/2000.

\* The format will be three groups of four teams with the top team in each group and the best second-placed team qualifying for the semifinals.

\*\* The venues are Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu and the Vicente Calderon stadiums as well as the Riazor stadium in La Coruna.

#### Weekend's Bundesliga schedule

REUTERS, Berlin

Friday: TSV 1860 Munich v Borus sia Dortmund (1915)

Saturday (1430 unless stated): VfL Wolfsburg v Bayern Munich Cologne v SC Freiburg, Energie Cottbus v Schalke 04, Vfl. Bochum v Hertha Berlin, Werder Bremen v Hamburg SV, VfB Stuttgart Kaiserslautern (1915)

Sunday: German First Division (1630) SpVgg Unterhaching Bayer Leverkusen, Hansa Rostock v Eintracht Frankfurt

English League Cup

#### Birmingham's dream realised

AFP, London

Two goals from striker Geoff Horsfield helped earn Birmingham a dream League Cup final place after beating Premiership side Ipswich 4-1 after extra time in their semi-final, second leg tie at St Andrews.

Birmingham, coached by former England international striker Trevor Francis, won the tie 4-2 on aggregate.

The First Division outfit will meet Liverpool at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff - their first appearance in a major final since style of play.

the attack and that leaves a lot of It was a prize richly deserved by Birmingham, who had to canspaces at the back that we can cel out Ipswich's single-goal admake use of on the counter," said

vantage from the first leg. midfielder Francisco Yeste. Ipswich striker James Scow-Burly forward Ismael Urzaiz and attacking midfielder Julen croft had struck to take the tie into extra time after Martin Grainger Guerrero are sure to make life and Horsfield, for whom this is difficult for the Barcelona defence. rich compensation after moving from runaway English First Divi-

Other matches this weekend (league positions in parentheses, kickoff times 1600 GMT unless

DEPORTIVO CORUNA (2) v

RACING SANTANDER (20)

bring a change in fortune.

victory of the season.

loan from Stade Rennes.

the bottom club.

With Djalminha back after his

two-match suspension and Mauro

Silva looking to have recovered

from injury, last year's champions

will be optimistic of victory over

LAS PALMAS (9) v REAL OVIEDO

make an immediate debut for

Radomir Antic's Oviedo as they

make the trip to the Canary Is-

lands in search of their first away

Las Palmas have reinforced

their squad with the addition of

Argentine striker Mario Turdo on

NUMANCIA (17) v VALLADOLID

still not won away from home this

term, but after good results

Stan Collymore looks set to

must hope their new recruits will on Friday.

#### sion leaders Fulham, had given the home side a 2-1 aggregate lead. Athirson awaits SUNDAY

AFP, Turin

Brazilian defender Athirson was unveiled to the press by his Italian giants Juventus here Wednesday despite the fact that his controversial move from Rio de Janeiro side Flamengo has yet to be sanctioned by world governing body FIFA.

FIFA go-ahead

Last week Italian authorities said the transfer could be registered on a provisional basis, al lowing the 24-year-old left back to train with the club but he will not be able to kick a ball in anger until

his deal is rubber stamped. The player was reluctant to talk about the saga but said: "I think ! can be useful to Juventus and we will try and win this Scudetto. The team I have seen has impressed me a lot and we have all the cards

to win." Athirson Mazoli De Oliveira, who will wear the number 28 jersey should the move be approved. played down his tag as the 'new Roberto Carlos' whom he described as 'sacred'.

#### Serie A preview

## Tough task awaits top two

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Serie A leaders AS Roma and their closest challengers Juventus both face tricky tests away from home as the Italian league hits the halfway stage this weekend.

Roma, three points clear of Juve, travel north to face Parma (Sunday 14:00 GMT), while Juve

have possibly an even tougher task away to fourth-placed Atalanta (Saturday 19:30 GMT).

Parma are unbeaten in their last three games but despite those results coach Arrigo Sacchi quit on Thursday and so their third coach of the season, Renzo Ulivieri will take charge against Roma.

Stress is believed to be behind Sacchi's resignation just 23 days after taking over from the sacked Alberto Malesani and it will be interesting to see how the squad react to another change of coach.

Ulivieri will be unable to call on Argentine midfielder Mattias Almeyda but otherwise has a full strength squad available.

Roma boss Fabio Capello will also have all his key players to choose from with Brazilian midfielder Emerson again expected to start on an expensive substitutes bench wich also features

Italian striker Vincenzo Montella and Japanese midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata.

Atalanta have been the surprise package of the season and showed that they are now genuine contenders for a Champions League place with a fine 4-2 win at Udinese on Sunday.

Two of Atalanta's goals came from Dominico Morfeo, brought back to the club on loan from Fiorentina, and he will again play in attacking role behind lone striker Nicola Ventoloa with the veteran Maurizio Ganz left on

the bench.

Football

Athletic Bilbao go to Barcelona's

Nou Camp stronghold attempting

sion double over the Catalan gi-

ants on Saturday (kickoff 2000

September, the Basque side came

from a goal behind to take a 3-1

victory over Barcelona in a bad-

tempered encounter at the San

for Barcelona whose inconsistent

start to the season has proved a

severe handicap to their champi-

the league, eight points adrift of

leaders Real Madrid and one be-

run, Barcelona have still failed to

play to their potential and have

convinced neither fans nor com-

peseta on players since last sea-

son, have hit form in the new year

and are optimistic that they can

take advantage of Barcelona's

"Barcelona are constantly on

Bilbao, who have not spent a

mentators in recent games.

The Catalan side are third in

Despite a 16-match unbeaten

The result was an ominous one zone.

In their previous match in

REUTERS, Madrid

Mames stadium.

onship aspirations.

hind Deportivo Coruna.

Primera Liga preview

the final game of last season but coach Carlo Ancelotti is without French striker David Trezeguet who is out for a month with a hamstring injury.

Ancelotti will have to choose between Alessandro Del Piero and Yugoslav target man Darko Kovacevic as Fillipo Inzaghi's partner in

OTHER MATCHES (Kick off times 14:00 GMT unless stated, league positions in parentheses)

**SATURDAY** 

PERUGIA (10) v VERONA (14)

After the intense transfer speculation Perugia central defender Marco Materazzi will see out the rest of the season before joining Inter next term. Materazzi will have has hands

full against another player who was tipped to move before the

transfer deadline Verona striker Emiliano Bonazzoli.

SUNDAY BARI (18) v BRESCIA (15)

Bottom club Bari could give a debut to striker Paolo Poggi signed on loan from Roma on the transfer deadline

Struggling Brescia will be without Roberto Baggio again as well as Czech keeper Pavel Srnicek. BOLOGNA (7) v INTER MILAN

Another chaotic week for Inter whose squad have been embroiled in an internet prostitution scandal while striker Alvaro

Recoba's has been under investigation for wrongfully gaining an Italian passport. Recoba is set to miss Sunday's match as he will have to return to

Bologna have had better news

Bilbao eying repeat act

against high-flying Deportivo, Real

Madrid and Mallorca they will be

optimistic of gaining their first

Last week's 5-0 win over Real

victory at struggling Numancia.

to complete a Spanish First Divi- Zaragoza provided a much-

OSASUNA (18) v ESPANYOL (11)

needed boost for cash-strapped

Espanyol. The haemorrhage of

players has continued this week

Paris St Germain as part of the

club's attempt to cut its wage bill.

Opponents Osasuna need a win to

keep them clear of the relegation

REAL MADRID (1) v MALAGA (8)

Real can afford to approach

their match against an improving

Malaga in a relaxed frame of mind

after last week's win against Va-

lencia saw them open up an eight-

look to have recovered from minor

niggles, but Raul is a doubtful

starter after sustaining a bruised

heel in training. Malaga should

have leading striker Dely Valdes

back to partner Dario Silva up

REAL MALLORCA (5) v VALENCIA

be anxious to get their season

REAL SOCIEDAD (19) v CELTA

Dual citizenship

for Conceicao

REUTERS, Madrid

the Spanish constitution.

three playing at any one time.

play for the club before April.

Coruna during the close season.

After three defeats in a row,

(4) 1900

starting line-up.

Cuper's side.

VIGO (16)

Luis Figo and Roberto Carlos

point lead at the top of the table.

joining Mauricio Pochettino at

with forward Enrique de Lucas

Juve have not lost away since with striker Giuseppe Signori re turning to fitness as his team look to repeat last season's 3-0 victory over the troubled Milan club. LAZIO (3) v LECCE (12)

Three wins and ten goals for In the absence of Trezeguet Lazio in the three games since Dino Zoff took over from Sven Goran Eriksson and Zoff's side could close the gap on Juve and Roma this weekend if their rivals

Apart from long-term injury victim Claudio Lopez, Lazio will be at full strength as will Lecce who have just two wins on the road this season and have never beaten Lazio in Rome.

AC MILAN (6) v REGGINA (17) With just one win in six games Milan have fallen off the pace but the arrival of Georgian Kakha Ka-

ladze should shore up their defensive problems. Kaladze will replace the suspended Alessandro Costacurta in the centre of defence, while Fede rico Giunti will stand in for Demetrio Albertini who is also serv-

ing a one match ban. NAPOLI (16) v FIORENTINA (5) (Sunday 19:30 GMT)

Brazilian Edmundo returns for Napoli to face his former club who he left after some bitter exchanges.

Fiorentina's seven game unbeaten run came to an end with last week's 4-1 home defeat to Lazio but coach Fatih Terim is not expected to make any drastic changes to his regular line-up. VICENZA (13) v UDINESE (9)

French midfielder Ousmane Dabo and Croatian playmaker Drazen Brncic, signed on loan this week from Monaco and AC Milan respectively, will both make their debuts.

Despite an inconsistent season and a huge injury list Udinese his native Uruguay to renew his made no moves in the transfer Uruguayan passport which has market and will be without striker Roberto Muzzi and Ghanian defender Mohammed Gargo.

John Toshack has done his best

to dispel the euphoria after Real's

4-1 victory against fellow strug-

man has improved confidence at a

dates for relegation. Celta are also

in difficulties, but will be hoping

that last week's first win in 11

REAL ZARAGOZA (15) v RAYO

VALLECANO (6)

league games signals an upturn in

With a record of eight goals

against and none for in the last

two league games Zaragoza will be

relieved that striker Juan Eduardo

Esnaider and midfielder Toro

Acuna are back for what promises

to be a tough match against Rayo.

VILLARREAL (7) v ALAVES (10)

Villarreal's star signing Martin

top scorer Javi Moreno.

A fascinating duel between two

Palermo prepares to make his

Villarreal's other signing from

great strikers is in prospect as

league debut against First Division

Boca, midfielder Gustavo Sche-

But it is clear that the Welsh-

glers Racing Santander.

#### Saudis offer Santrac two-year deal

REUTERS, Riyadh

Yugoslav coach Slobodan Santrac will sign a two-year contract this weekend to coach the Saudi Arabian national team, the country's football association said on Thursday.

The Yugoslavia World Cup coach will arrive in Dammam to finalise the deal and is expected to take over at the end of February.

A Saudi FA spokesman said Santrac will watch Saudi Arabia's first round of World Cup qualifying next week, when they take on Bangladesh, Vietnam and Mongo-

The Saudis will be guided through the first phase, which they are expected to negotiate easily, by Nassr Al Johar who took them to the final of October's Asian Cup in Lebanon. Al Johar, a former interna-

tional, was named as interim coach after the sacking of Czech Republic's Milan Macala, fired after losing 4-1 to Japan in their opening game in Lebanon. Santrac had previously worked

in China, leading unfancied Shandong Luneng to their first-ever league title in 1999 but left the club at the end of last season.

#### MU gesture for Indian quake victims

REUTERS, Manchester

Manchester United are supporting an appeal fund for victims of the Gujarat earthquake in India.

Manager Alex Ferguson joined David Beckham and Andy Cole in urging supporters of the English champions to donate money to the UNICEF-run appeal. "On behalf of the club I would

like to offer our condolences to everybody who has been affected by the earthquake," he said on the club's website. "Our hearts go out to those

who have lost loved ones." Up to 100,000 people are feared dead and many more left

homeless after the quake in western India. "Thousands of children have died, thousands more have been left homeless. Please help UNICEF

to support these children at this desperate time," said Beckham. "Even a small donation will go a long way," said Cole.

#### club that looked certain candimost expensive club

REUTERS, London

Arsenal are the most expensive football club in Britain to watch, according to a new survey. Researchers for Nationwide,

sponsors of the Football League, Conference and English, Scottish and Welsh national teams found that a typical match day at Highbury would cost just over 40 pounds on average per person.

Third Division Darlington were named the cheapest league club. where a typical match day would cost around 13 pounds.

Figures in the survey published today included a mid-price match ticket, a programme, a fanzine, hot drink and burger, and a pint of lotto is likely to start on the bench. | beer.

## side Parma on January 1. Premiership preview

Everton will try to hand runaway Premier League leaders Manchester United a second successive defeat at Old Trafford on Sat-

Alex Ferguson's side, who lost 1-0 at home to West Ham United in the FA Cup last Sunday, opened a 15-point lead at the top of the table with their 1-0 win at Sunderland on Wednesday.

ready paying out on them retaining their title, even though there is (shoulder) should be fit. Jim still a third of the season left.

Sunderland but he will be available on Saturday.

brough on Wednesday and will gladly settle for another point on Saturday.

(kick-off 1500 GMT unless stated, league position in parentheses):

BRADFORD CITY (20) v ASTON VILLA (14)

points adrift, are without a without a win in four matches, having scored just two goals this year and this is a match Jim Jefferies' side have to win. Villa are on a run of three consecutive defeats, with just one victory in their last eight matches and are in danger of

COVENTRY CITY (19) v ARSENAL

Gordon Strachan's side has seen them plummet into the bottom three, and they face secondplaced Arsenal having failed to win at home since the beginning of December.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has seen his team score eight times in their last two matches but a Champions League place is their only realistic target.

LAND (3)

Smith's side have failed to win in but defender Andy Morrison is Andy Cole faces a three-match four matches. Sunderland slipped doubtful with a hamstring strain. to third after an ill-tempered defeat to Manchester United on Wednesday, but the reverse was Everton, who are 15th, dug in only their second in 10 matches. IPSWICH TOWN (5) v LEEDS

> UNITED (10) three successive games on home clean sheets in the absence of Neil territory.

David O'Leary's side are without Gary Kelly, who requires another hernia operation, and will be looking to avenge a home defeat by Ipswich earlier this season. LEICESTER CITY (8) v CHELSEA

Leicester are without a win in five league games after defeat at the Dell on Wednesday while Chelsea will be aiming to make to Rock-bottom Bradford, five make it four wins on the trot. French defender Frank

Leboeuf is available after hisproposed move to Monaco broke down this week. LIVERPOOL (4) v WEST HAM UNITED (13)

matches, can leapfrog Sunderland Tissier returned to training this getting sucked into the relega- into third place with a win over week but is unlikely to play.

### Sacchi quits Parma

REUTERS, Rome

Former Italy manager Arrigo Sacchi resigned as coach of Parma on Monday just three weeks after making his unexpected return to Serie A.

The club said on their official website that Sacchi had stepped down for personal reasons and would be replaced by former Bologna and Napoli boss Renzo Ulivieri.

They said Sacchi would hold a news conference at the club's Tardini stadium on Friday before Ulivieri was officially presented as the club's third coach this season.

Sacchi was not on the bench for Parma's 2-1 Italian Cup semifinal first leg defeat at Udinese earlier on Thursday.

The club said he was suffering a slight illness and Italian media reported the former AC Milan coach, who took over from Alberto Malesani at Parma on January 9, was suffering stress.

Sacchi returned to Serie A almost two years after he quit as coach of Atletico Madrid saying he was tired of the profession and needed a change.

Since then he has worked as a television pundit, his outspoken views on Italian football keeping him in the public eye.

vember. A groin strain may keep

striker Frederic Kanoute out of the

clash, wich will reunite West

international team mates Jari

Middlesbrough are unbeaten

Terry Venables but face a real

relegation battle against City after

pulling clear of the drop zone.

Ham's Finn Hannu Tihinen with

MIDDLESBROUGH (16) v MAN-

Litmanen and Sami Hyppia.

Andrei Kanchelskis could

CHESTER CITY (18)

#### West Ham, who have not won away in the league since last No-

One British bookmaker is al-

ban after being sent off against

for a 2-2 draw against Middles-

romped to an embarrassingly easy 3-1 win at Goodison Park and they won the corresponding fixture at Old Trafford 5-1 last season, with Norwegian Ole Gunnar

Solskjaer scoring four times. Manager Walter Smith has eight senior players unavailable through Other matches this weekend

SATURDAY

in their last nine games under DERBY COUNTY (17) v SUNDER-

start for Joe Royle's side after Derby goalkeeper Mart Poom impressing as a substitute in the 1-1 midweek draw with Liverpool, TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (11) V

CHARLTON (9) Loan signing Andy Booth will be looking for his first goal for Spurs after seeing an effort ruled out against West Ham in midweek, Ipswich will be glad to return to break a run of three consecutive to Portman Road because their 4-1 goalless draws for George Gra-Earlier this season United League Cup semifinal defeat at ham's side. Goalkeeper Ian Walker First Division Birmingham City has said he will demand a loan was their fifth defeat in six away move if he is overlooked for the matches. They have won their last game, having kept back-to-back

> Sullivan, available again after suspension. Charlton are still without captain Mark Kinsella (knee) and top scorer Jonatan Johansson (toe).

SUNDAY

NEWCASTLE UNITED (7) v SOUTHAMPTON (12) 1600 GMT Thumped 3-1 at Chelsea on Wednesday, Newcastle will use the 5-0 victory over Southampton in

the corresponding fixture last year

as inspiration on Sunday. Striker

Kevin Gallacher (virus) and mid-

fielder Rob Lee (groin) should be

fit. Southampton have six wins in their last eight home games but have been less suc-Liverpool, unbeaten in six cessful away from home. Matt Le

"Now it comes from within, we

rarely does he have to spell it

"It will be a difficult time for

the one manager for the rest of my

everyone at the club. The players

will have to answer to someone

else, listen to and take instructions

## Neville fears life sans Fergie

Football REUTERS, Manchester

England defender Gary Neville fears Manchester United's trophywinning team will break up when

Cole to miss seven weeks' action

REUTERS, Manchester

land on Wednesday.

Manchester United's Andy Cole will miss seven weeks' domestic action due to a quirk in the fixture list after being sent off at Sunder-

The England striker faces an automatic three-match ban starting on February 10 although he can still play in United's Champions League games. Because the champions have been knocked out of the FA Cup,

they have several blank weekends

and Cole will not return to do-

mestic soccer until the match against Liverpool on March 31. The news is a blow for Cole who was eager to impress England boss Sven Goran Eriksson ahead of the Swede's first game in charge, a friendly against Spain on

February 28. Cole has only just returned to action after surgery on his Achilles tendon in November.

manager Alex Ferguson retires in influence on the team and, from 2002. Neville said up to five play- the moment you break into it, he ers could leave when Ferguson sets out what is needed. quits at the end of next season. It will be frightening for a lot know what we have to do. He has

of us who have been here for 15 instilled that in us and very

veus, all under one manager," Neville told the club's official CD- out. It would be nice to play under Rom magazine on Thursday. Some of the lads have been at career. the club since they were 13 or 14 and don't know any different. When the manager leaves, it may

leave. And before you know it, you are trying to create another team. "Look what happened to Liverpool. They are a massive club, but have not won anything for

be that five or six of his side will

Neville said the only way United could avoid slipping from their perch as the premier league's top side when Ferguson left was to continue to follow the Scot's work

But he said he would prefer to see Ferguson change his mind and stay on in charge at OldTrafford.

"All I know is that our success has been achieved through hard work and that can't afford to stop," he said. "I don't know what will happen

I would like to see him stay.

when he retires. You keep thinking it won't come round, that it's 18 months away. a new boss.

"There will also be the problem of comparing whoever comes in with Alex Ferguson, thinking our manager would not have done things like that. Whoever takes

charge has a really difficult task."

from someone else.

Weekend's French First Division

REUTERS, Paris

fixtures

Saturday (1900 GMT unless stated): Nantes v Paris St Germain (1615 GMT). Olympique Marseille v AJ Auxerre, En Avant Guingamp v Olympique Lyon, St Etienne v Strasbourg, Monaco v Metz. "Before you know it, we'll have Troves v Stade Rennes, Toulouse v Girondins Bordeaux, Bastia v Se-

And if you ask every player, they Sunday: RC Lens v Lille (1945) would say the same. He has an GMT



-- only Luis Figo and Nicolas Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger arriving at an FA tribunal to learn if he Like Oviedo, Valladolid have Anelka cost more -- after his \$21.6 would be able to coach his side from the touchline during this weekend's million move from Deportivo Premiership game against Coventry In London yesterday. Wenger is currently under a 12-match touchline ban.

# parmalai An AFP file photo of Arrigo Sacchi who resigned as the coach of Serie A Can Everton do it? Football Four successive defeats for REUTERS, London