

and Danny Granville before, Nash

who was at United's school of excel-

move when Beckham latched on to

Barthez's long kick, but the England

captain lifted the ball over the City

Brown over in the box as the United

defender burst through on the right

the disbelief of the United fans.

to concede a penalty.

midfield four.

Just after the hour Dickov pushed

Scholes dragged his shot wide to

Seconds later, United replaced

United looked more menacing

The hapless Dickov then played

United won a second penalty

with a little less than 20 minutes to

go which Sheringham fired in the

bottom corner, even though Nash

near-post corner was flicked on for

Howey to bundle the ball over the

moments later when Keane received

his eight career red card as Elleray

United's problems increased

But with just six minutes remain-

managed to get a hand to it.

Chadwick with Ryan Giggs as they

reverted to their first-choice

and Solskjaer shot wide before he

Solskjaer clean through with a crazy

backpass only for Nash to make a

had another effort saved by Nash.

United almost unlocked City's

Manchester City's Steve Howey (C) grabs a late equaliser while Manchester United French goalkeeper Fabien Bartez (2nd R) watches in their English Premier League match at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Premiership

Manchester derby drawn

Football

AFP, London

Manchester City kept alive their bid to stay in the Premiership on Saturday with a hard-fought 1-1 draw against English champions Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Teddy Sheringham, voted Player of the Year by the British Football Writers Association on Friday, gave United the lead with a 71st minute penalty after Richard Dunne had tripped Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in the

But City fought back and defender Steve Howey slotted home an equaliser six minutes from time.

Two minutes later United captain Roy Keane was sent off by reffirst match at Old Trafford since skipper Alfie Haaland - making it the box and his shot was deflected fourth time in his career the onto the bar. Irishman has been red carded by Elleray.

United had the opportunity to again four minutes later. take the lead after 61 minutes but spot-kick wide.

United, who crashed out of the shot on the line. Champions League at the quarterfinal stage to Bayern Munich on Wednesday, wrapped up their third successive title last Saturday.

enough and that is maybe all we money does not always guarantee

second from bottom on 31 points with just three games left to play.

Third-bottom Coventry, who lence as a youngster, saved his shot. have two more points than City, travel to high fliers lpswich later on packed defence with a route-one Saturday, while fourth bottom Middlesbrough, who have 35 points, visit out-of form Leicester.

Nearly 27 years to the day after Denis Law's infamous back-heeled goal for Manchester City helped relegate United, the 'Reds' were looking to do the same to the 'Sky

David Beckham made his first start for United since April 3, while Sheringham, Solskjaer and Luke Chadwick also played for the cham-

City made two changes and Dickov returned from suspension, while Tony Grant started in midfield.

Joe Royle's strugglers almost took eree David Elleray, officiating in his the lead after four minutes when Brown's header from Dickov's free-1997, for a high challenge on City kick fell to Gerard Wiekens outside

> City, who had won just one of the previous 24 derbies, went close

Phil Neville gave the ball away to when City striker Paul Dickov Paulo Wanchope and the leggy Costa hauled down Wes Brown, England Rican rounded Fabien Barthez, but ing, City equalised when Dickov's midfielder Paul Scholes flashed his he went too wide and Jaap Stam managed to get back to block his

United's first attack saw Carlo Nash save a fiercely-struck drive by

Paul Scholes. Chadwick went on a mazy run was given little choice after the Greece faces expulsion FIFA's April 25 deadline nears

Football

REUTERS, Athens

The Greek Football Association (EPO) is days away from being expelled by FIFA after world football's governing body confirmed on Friday that it will stand by an April 25 deadline for reform of the Greek

sports law. In a letter sent to the EPO on Friday, FIFA general secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinnen restated the demand for written confirmation that existing legislation would be redrafted to ensure the independence of the Greek FA.

"If we do not receive the required confirmation in writing, we will association," Ruffinnen said in a deadline.

letter to the EPO.

The chances of the demanded amendments being made receded earlier in the day when the Greek sports minister placed the blame for any potential ban squarely on the Greek FA.

"It is exclusively EPO who is endangering the participation of Greek teams in European competitions," sports minister George Floridis said in a letter to Greek champions Olympiakos Piraeus. The EPO is at odds with the

been hit by allegations of poor refereeing and match rigging while attendances have fallen. In March, FIFA demanded that

sports ministry over government

efforts to reform the game, wich has

legislation ensuring the complete independence of the EPO from the have no choice but to expel your state be drafted before the April 25

The ultimatum said that if these terms were not met FIFA would ban all Greek teams from competing at both club and international level.

Floridis said FIFA could not issue an ultimatum to the Greek government and his attempts to reform the sport would go ahead as planned.

"We are not to blame and we are also not part of FIFA. It is up to EPO to clear up the situation," he told Reuters on Friday.

He said he would push ahead with the necessary reforms "to clean up and modernise football."

Olympiakos warned the EPO on Thursday that they would seek multi-million dollar damages if they were not allowed to compete in next season's Champions League as result of the ban.

The Pireaus club also urged the sports ministry to put an end to the dispute.

A file photo of Dutch striker Ruud Van Nistelrooy who is set join English champions Manchester United from PSV Eindhoven.

Brazil drop Rivaldo

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA APAN

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Barcelona's Rivaldo was dropped on Friday as Brazil, stung by last month's shock defeat in Ecuador, made sweeping changes to their squad for their World Cup qualifier against Peru.

Coach Emerson Leao included seven uncapped players in the squad for Wednesday's match in Sao Paulo and named only three foreignbased players.

The coach added that many of Brazil's overseas players, including Rivaldo, were at their "maximum limit" after a long European season in wich they had commuted to South America once a month for World Cup qualifiers.

Rivaldo has been heavily criticised at home over his poor form for his country and was substituted in the World Cup qualifier in Ecuador, which Brazil lost 1-0. Rivaldo has admitted that he has become fired of the constant criticism.

Arsenal full-back Silvinho was among other players dropped while Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos was

again left out. AC Milan defender Roque Junior

The Belgian Football Association

said on Saturday it had asked federal

investigate information that

The Belgian FA on Friday

Flemish first division clubs may be

received a list of 18 players with

seven clubs in Belgium's northern,

Dutch-speaking Flanders region

who do not have work permits or

Ronaldinho fails

Gremio here on Friday at an arbitra-

tion hearing over his proposed

to reach deal

with Gremio

illegally using foreign players.

Football

REUTERS, Brussels

officialsto

and AS Roma defender Emerson Ferriera are unavailable after picking up second yellow cards against Ecuador, Leao said.

under the carpet and end up in the same old routine," said Leao. "Sometimes you can help a player by

dropping him temporarily, provi-Rivaldo.



Rivaldo

sionally or permanently. We spoke to Rivaldo in Quito and in Barcelona. He is at the maximum limit of games," he said.

"There has been a change in philosophy brought out of necessity," he added.

The newcomers to the squad are

Mineiro, Robert and Ewerthon and striker Washington. The latter, who plays for Ponte Preta, is the top You can easily sweep a problem scorer in the Paulista championship with 12 goals.

Alessandro, midfielders Leomar

Leao said the door remained open for all unselected players to return in the future, including

"He is a top player, a former world player of the year," he said, referring to the FIFA title Rivaldo won in 1999.

Brazil have dropped to third in the South American group after last month's defeat in Ecuador, their third in 11 outings.

Only the top four in the 10-team group qualify directly for the World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea next year.

Brazil, the only country to have played at all 16 World Cup tournaments, desperately need a win to avoid putting their proud record in

Leao, who has raised evebrows by announcing that the team will prepare at a farm near Sao Paulo, which belongs to a close friend. defended his decision.

"It's near Sao Paulo where the

game will be played. It's better than going to somewhere which belongs to an enemy," he said.

"There is no question that a club

could lose points in this affair," he

tion do not today foresee the loss of

points for players who don't have

club affiliation cards to foreign

players that currently differ between

Belgium's three regions - Flanders,

But Courtois said the rules are

Van Nistelrooy has just been

recalled to the Dutch squad for

Wednesday's World Cup qualifier

against Cyprus -- the first time he

has been included since February

2000 after being sidelined for more

but RKC equalised on 53 minutes

through Joey Gudjonsson who beat

goalkeeper Ronald Waterreus with a

fierce shot from well outside the box.

ceded this season by Waterreus who

It was only the 17th goal con-

than a year with a knee injury.

due to be harmonised, requiring

that all players have both a work

permit and a residency card.

French-speaking Wallonia and the

Current rules on issuing soccer

told RTBE

work permits."

capital Brussels.

van Nistelrooy.

him out of action for almost a year. Kenyon refused to be drawn on whether the fee would be the same this time around. "Ruud is coming back well, it's

he told Sky TV.

discussions had taken place.

"We met with the PSV manage-

The English champions agreed to

buy Van Nistelrooy for 18.5 million

pounds 12 months ago, but the

transfer collapsed when the Dutch

international suffered a cruciate

knee ligament injury, which ruled

ment at the end of the week but we

think any deal will probably not go

through until well into next week,"

cussions, he said PSV said the two clubs had held initial discussions on Friday evening after the Dutch side's match against RKCWaalwijk. Two United officials, including

looking good but we're still in dis-

Kenyon, watched PSV's 3-1 victory in wich Van Nistelrooy had a couple "The rules of the football associa- of chances but failed to score and was substituted. PSV said Chairman Harry van

Raaij and technical director Frank Arnesen said the United delegation knew exactly where they stood following the meeting.

"They have 10 days to think it over. After that we'll talk to other clubs in the picture," Van Raaij was quoted as saying in the NRC Handelsblad paper on Saturday.

Van Raaij told Dutch media on Friday he had a price in mind, though he declined to reveal the figure. He had previously said he would be unwilling to settle for less than the 65 million

guilders (26.6 million dollars) agreed last year.

The United delegation have returned to England, while Van Raaij was spending the weekend watching tennis in Monaco. "You must remember how long it

took last time. There'll certainly be nothing settled in the next two PSV tried to hold onto their lead | days," Salazar said.

Although Manchester United clinched their seventh Premier League title in nine years last week, they were knocked out of the Champions League by Bayern Munich on Wednesday, the second straight year they have failed to get beyond the quarterfinals.

The 24-year-old Van Nistelrooy could be the first of several top players to arrive at Old Trafford this summer as Alex Ferguson bids to win European soccer's most prestigious competition for the second time next season, which he has said will be his last as United manager.

"We have said we will freshen in the summer," Kenyon confirmed. But he refused to say what impli cations Van Nistelrooy's arrival

would have for United's current strikers Dwight Yorke, Andy Cole, Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar

"It's far too early to say. We want to get this season out of the way first and those considerations will be part of our strategic plan for next season," he said.

Van Nistelrooy has still to find the assured touch that made him Dutch player of the year last season, but he has made great strides since return-

ing to the first team in March. On Thursday, Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal called him up to the Dutch squad for Wednesday's World

Cup qualifier against Cyprus. Van Nistelroov, whose contract with P8V runs until July 2003, and his agent have declined to comment

about the transfer.

PROFILE Fact file on Dutch striker Roud

van Nistelroov: 1976: Born July 1, Oss, Netherlands.

midfielder after playing for amateur clubs Nooit Gedacht and Magriet. 1994: Two appearances for Den Bosch in first season.

1995: Scored three goals in 15 games for Ben Bosch 1996: Scored two goals in 21 games for Den Bosch. 1997: Scored 12 goals in 13 games

for Den Bosch. 1997: Transferred to Heerenveen. 1998: Scored 13 goals in 31 games for Heerenveen. Transferred to

dollars. 1998: Made international debut against Germany in November. 1999: Scored first and only inter-

by Morocco. 1999: In first season at PSV scored 31 goals in 34 matches.

2000: Made 10th international appearance in 2-1 victory over

2000: Suffered leg injury in March friendly against Silkeborg. Sidelined for six to eight weeks. Scored 29 goals for PSV, highest

tally in Dutch league. 2000: Transfer to Manchester United for 18.5 million pounds (27 million dollars) -- then a

2000: Move called off "temporarily" six days later after he fails

medical in Manchester. 2000: One day later, injures right knee in training. Out of action for

nine months. 2001: Named Dutch player of the 1999/2000 season and returns to

light training. 2001: Makes return to first team action on March 3 in 0-0 draw with Roda JC Kerkrede.

2001: Scores two goals -- his first

2001: Scores two more goals in Dutch Cup semifinal to help PSV to 3-1 win over Heerenveen. 2001: On April 19, recalled to Dutch squad for international friendly against Cyprus.

1999: Silver Boot as second highasseorer in Europe.

French Cup final

Football

the Second Division last week. restored their pride on Friday when challenge," said the 48-year-old | they reached the French Cup final former Flamengo and Udinese | with a 4-1 upset win over double title (Italy) player who scored a record 53 | holders Nantes.

> slotting a 20-metres shot on the half of the hour before midfielder Pascal Johansen made it two 10 minutes into the second half.

> as midfielder Pascal Camadini netted his side's third goal with an unchallenged run in the 72nd.

who were ousted by Olympique Lyon in the French League Cup Germain. semifinal, suffered their first defeat in 17 French Cup matches.

85th minute goal but it was far from enough to overturn the match. Luyindula was fouled inside the

box during injury time and

Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis

Chilavert scored the penalty, which wrapped up the game. The defeat ended Nantes's chances of emulating Lille, the only First Division side to have clinched

But Nantes, who are top of the French rable on 59 points leading second place Lyon and Lille by four points with three matches to go before the end of the season, are the

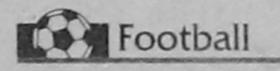
Strasbourg are now aiming for the third Cup of their history, the French league leaders Nantes, first since 1966 after being runnerup in 1995 bowing 1-0 to Paris St

On Saturday, third division Amiens take on Troyes in the second



Strasbourg players celebrate after their victory 4-1 against Nantes in the

Irishman's dreadful foul. A point for City leaves them into the box and held off Jeff Whitley Wenger won't go shopping



REUTERS, London

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger says he will not resort to lavish spending in the summer after his side went out of the Champions League earlier this week. Wenger reacted to comments

attributed to midfielder Patrick Vieira following Arsenal's defeat at Valencia on Tuesday when the French player suggested that his side need to bring several top stars to the club in order to succeed in Europe next season. Wenger said: "It was a frustrated

game, wich I can totally understand. "With the players that we have got it is important for us to get back into the Champions League. If we were not to get into the Champions League it would be difficult for us to

bring the right players.

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Footballers' Union.

topayus."

reaction by him (Vieira) after the

what you mean by big signings but I the team.

Argentine players are threatening to

go on strike over unpaid wages and

bonuses and warn the stoppage

sporting conflict," said Sergio

Marchi, a director of the Argentine.

no solution is found. We want them

San Lorenzo, Independiente,

Rosario Central, Belgrano and

Talleres have already protested this

year, refusing to spend the tradi-

tion" before some matches.

tional night in so-called "concentra-

"Today, we are face to face with a

"The strike is a question of time if

Players with first division clubs

could happen at any moment.

means by big signings? It depends

"I don't know what everybody

need. Who were Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira before they came to Arsenal? I don't always see spending big money as the answer."



"I can assure Patrick and all of our fans that we are aiming to compete with Real Madrid and all the just want players who can improve other top European clubs," he said.



Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood, however, has said there is 50 million pounds available to boost the squad.

"Money is available to buy play-

Arsene Wenger

"Sometimes one player is ers but you have to remember that League competition.

Argentine soccer strike?

"It was not the first time," he Marchi said the union would meet next week to discuss action, "If there's no answer, we will decide on

the media recently that on one

occasion the team were paid with

cheques wich bounced.

a similar situation.

stopping our activities," Argentina's 20 First Division clubs have a total estimated debt of 350 million dollars between them, nearly two third of which is made up of unpaid wages and bonuses,

The Second Division clubs are in its income, not let itself get carried

"There are all types of debts," that God settles the bill."

Meanwhile, midfielder Ray

Parlour will miss Saturday's clash with Everton at Highbury and is a major concern for the FA Cup final against Liverpool on May 12. The England international

against Valencia with a mystery complaint. "I don't really know what his condition is," said Wenger.

midfielder was taken off at halftime

"He can't run and he is finding it hard to breathe and he has pain in his ribs. Is it a nerve? Is it the flu? don't really know at the moment. "It looks like it is something

mechanical but it is difficult to assess what it is." Arsenal will be seeking to give their fans something to cheer on Saturday after their woeful display when they lost 3-0 at home to Middlesbrough in the premier

league last week, which came four days before their exit from Europe. They are still second in the table and still look the most likely to take the second automatic qualifying place for next season's Champions

ignoring an Argentine Football Association (AFA) rule introduced two years ago, which bans clubs from signing new players before a season if they are not up to date with wages and bonuses.

Talleres player Cristian Pino told Marchisaid. Some clubs don't pay the

> annual bonuses, others don't pay wages. In the case of the second division, there are significant delays in paying salaries." Marchi accused the clubs of

"To improve the game, we believe each club should spend according to away on a wave of passion and hope

left-back Leo, right-back Belgian clubs under investigation

residency cards, RTBF television The Belgian FA could not be

reached for comment.

"I have sent this information to our federal prosecutor," Alain Courtois, secretary general of the Belgian Football Association, said in an interview with RTBE

"I have asked for a case-by-case investigation on these players. "(The public prosecutor) will make a report and transmit it to our

tually take sanctions." But Courtois said the clubs

sports committee, which will even-

would not face the loss of any points.

AFP, Rio De Janeiro Brazilian international striker Ronaldinho Gaucho failed to reach agreement with his former club Waalwijk 3-1 on Friday.

transfer to struggling French giants Paris Saint Germain. Gremio president Jose Alberto Guerreiro, who refused to shake Ronaldinho's hand at the hearing, turned down the proposed transfer fee of 14.5 million dollars recommended by the tribunal chief, Judge

Antonia Mara Loguercio. Gremio are refusing to allow Ronaldinho to leave until PSG pay 38 million dollars which will release bim from his contract with th Brazilian side.

CBF presidency

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Zico runs for

is set to run for the presidency of the Brazil Football Federation (CBF) in 2003, daily Jornal do Brasil reported on Friday. "I believe I'm ready to take up the

Former Brazilian football great Zico

international goals for Brazil. "We need a radical change, the crisis our football is experiencing has been caused by mistakes made by the game's management," added Zico, who starred in the 1978, 1982

and 1986 World Cups, though Brazil

Zico, whose full name is Arthur

failed to win any of them.

Antunez Coimbra, believes current CBF president Ricardo Teixeira has mismanaged the Brazilian game since winning office in 1989, above all for allowing enquiries in to the game from the Brazilian parliamentary commission.

PSV close in on title

Football

REUTERS, Amsterdam PSV Eindhoven are only five points away from retaining the Dutch championship after beating RKC

rivals Feyenoord who have a game in hand and play NEC Nijmegen on PSV did not play well against the defensively strong RKC, but opened the scoring in the 26th minute when Dutch top scorer Mateja Kezman

found the net for the 22nd time this

points, 14 points clear of nearest

With five games to go PSV have 70

season after combining with Ruud against him in 33 matches. Strasbourg enter

REUTERS, Paris Strasbourg, who were demoted to

Inspirational striker Peggy sincetheSecondWorldWar. Luyindula opened the scoring by

Substitute Marama Vahirua French Cup semifinal.

can still beat a record set by Juventus keeper Edwin van der Sar in his Ajax days when just 20 goals were scored

saved the visitors pride thanks to a

three consecutive French Cups

Strashourg dominated the march hot favourites to clinch the League



1993: Joined Den Bosch as

PSV Eindhoven for 5 million national goal to date in 2-1 defeat

Germany

British record -- agreed on April

since his injury -- as PSV beat Twente Enschede 2-1 on March

HONOURS 1998: Dutch Super Cup.

French Cup semifinals on Friday.