

Munich goes wild



AFP, Munich

An estimated 500,000 fans were on the streets of Munich on Thursday to welcome home the players of Bayern Munich, who won the Champions League on Wednesday, the first time the club have won the continent's top club trophy for 25 years.

The Bayern players, who beat Valencia in a penalty shootout after the final in Milan had ended 1-1 after extra-time, drove from the airport into Munich's main square, the Marienplatz, in a fleet of open-topped cars, signing autographs and giving handshakes to fans as they went.

Captain Stefan Effenberg and striker Carsten Jancker opted to wear the traditional Bavarian leather trousers, or lederhosen, for the victory parade.

On the balcony of the town hall, goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, who became the hero for Bayern after saving brilliantly on three occasions in the shoot-out, told the crowd: "After 25 years, the Cup is here again."

Bayern were also parading the trophy from their 17th German league title, which they wrapped up



PHOTO: AFP

Bayern Munich heroes Paolo Sergio (L) and Oliver Kahn displaying the European Champions trophy to the crowd from the balcony of Munich's Marienplatz on May 24.

on Saturday with a 1-1 draw against Hamburg SV.

The club's president Franz Beckenbauer, who as a player won three European Cups - the forerunner of the Champions League - with

Bayern from 1974 to 1976, said: "Whether we are world champions, European champions or German champions, I've never seen such enthusiasm in Munich."

Around 32,000 Bayern fans

watched the match on a giant television screen in Munich's Olympic Stadium on Wednesday and 10,000 fans stayed up through the night to toast the team's victory.

Keegan new Man City manager

don't go near the main road," he joked.

City chairman David Bernstein insisted Keegan had been the club's top target to succeed Royle.

"In three days we've had over 20 serious applications for this job. However, we only had one target for this job and when we approached him he described it as a unique opportunity," said Bernstein.

Keegan's record at Newcastle and Fulham was "outstanding," he added, and he possessed "unique man-management and motivational qualities."

The chairman added that Keegan's football style would appeal to the club's supporters.

"He'll bring something the club has lacked for 20 or 30 years - real style and flair."

Keegan, 50, stood down as England coach after the 1-0 defeat against Germany at Wembley in October in a World Cup qualifier and admitted he was not up to the task of international management.

He had been heavily criticised for the national team's performance in the Euro 2000 finals last summer in Belgium and the Netherlands when England defeated Germany but lost to both Portugal and Romania.

have won no major trophies since and must live in the huge shadow cast by Premiership champions Manchester United.

At the start of the 1998-99 season City were in the English Second Division, the first time in their history that they had been outside English football's top two tiers.

However, under Royle the club clawed their way back although it ended a dramatic play-off victory to get them into the First Division at the end of the 1998-99 campaign.

City were in the Premiership for four seasons from 1992-93 to 1995-96 but failed to make a major impact.

Keegan has a good record in gearing up clubs for entry into the Premiership.

He took Newcastle back into the top division in 1993 and came within a whisker of landing the Premiership title in the 1995-96 season.

But he resigned in January 1997, establishing an unfortunate reputation for quitting when the going gets tough.

Fulham's tycoon chairman Mohammad Al Fayed tempted him to join Fulham, who he guided to the Second Division title, setting them

on track to the Premiership before taking the England job after Glenn Hoddle's sacking.

Asked if he had something to prove after his England stint, Keegan said: "You always have a point to prove. I demand a lot of myself."

"Every time you go somewhere what you have achieved means nothing. That doesn't worry me. It is not an exact science."

"Just because someone has failed somewhere, doesn't mean they will fail somewhere else."

Keegan said: "I demand a lot of myself."

"Kirch with the greatest probability will take over these contracts from ISL-ISMM," Blatter said.

At City he again finds himself managing a team where expectations of success, fuelled by plans to move into a new stadium set to be used first for the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, remain high despite the reality of recent seasons.

For a brief period in the late 1960s and early 1970s City surpassed arch rivals Manchester United, winning the league title in 1967-68, the FA Cup in 1969 and the European Cup Winners Cup in 1969-70.

However, apart from an English League Cup triumph in 1976, City

watched City's final home game of the season, even though relegation was already assured.

"There is a tremendous fan base and the club has underachieved in the past. This is a sleeping giant and it is my job to turn it around," said Keegan.

"I have had other opportunities but this is the only one that has appealed to me. They are one of few clubs I would have joined. This is a big club."

City have a reputation for hiring and firing managers at an alarming rate - Keegan is the club's 19th boss in 30 years - but he made light of the situation.

"As a kid your mum always says

Zidane not moving

Football

AFP, Rome

World and European champion Zinedine Zidane brushed aside speculation Thursday and confirmed his commitment to Italian outfit Juventus next season.

"I'm staying with Juve, that's it. If newspapers want to amuse themselves by putting me in other jerseys I don't know what to say," Zidane told Italian sports weekly *Rigore*.

The French playmaker has

become an integral part of the Italian side since signing in 1996.

And his key role was underlined Sunday when he inspired Juve to come from behind to beat Bologna 4-1 and stay in the three-way race for the Scudetto.

Juve, deprived of the battling qualities of midfielder Edgar Davids who is suspended pending his doping hearing, showed little sign of missing the drenched Dutchman as Zidane stole the show, sometimes producing gasps of admiration from even the home fans.

According to Spanish press

reports Primera Liga giants Real Madrid have rekindled their interest in the French player after a previous failed attempt to lure him to Spain last year.

And Zidane, who will be 29 years old next month, said that he did not see himself playing in five years time.

"I'm certain that I won't play until I'm 35 (years old). Football is not only a passion when you're young. It's also pressure. I know that life exists outside football and I don't want to die for football," added Zidane.

FC Twente beat Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven 4-3 from the penalty spot to win the Dutch Cup final after an extra-time 0-0 draw here. Both teams were still scoreless after 30 minutes of extra time, with FC Twente taking the advantage from the spot to win their first Cup since 1977.

FC Twente thus win a qualifying place in the UEFA Cup, while PSV Eindhoven will dispute the Champions League.

The French playmaker has

become an integral part of the Italian side since signing in 1996.

And his key role was underlined

Sunday when he inspired Juve to

come from behind to beat Bologna

4-1 and stay in the three-way race

for the Scudetto.

Juve, deprived of the battling

qualities of midfielder Edgar Davids

who is suspended pending his

doping hearing, showed little sign

of missing the drenched Dutchman

as Zidane stole the show, sometimes

producing gasps of admiration

from even the home fans.

"I'm certain that I won't play until

I'm 35 (years old). Football is

not only a passion when you're young.

It's also pressure. I know that life

exists outside football and I don't

want to die for football," added

Zidane.

The French playmaker has

become an integral part of the Italian

side since signing in 1996.

And his key role was underlined

Sunday when he inspired Juve to

come from behind to beat Bologna

4-1 and stay in the three-way race

for the Scudetto.

Juve, deprived of the battling

qualities of midfielder Edgar Davids

who is suspended pending his

doping hearing, showed little sign

of missing the drenched Dutchman

as Zidane stole the show, sometimes

producing gasps of admiration

from even the home fans.

"I'm certain that I won't play until

I'm 35 (years old). Football is

not only a passion when you're young.

It's also pressure. I know that life

exists outside football and I don't

want to die for football," added

Zidane.

The French playmaker has

become an integral part of the Italian

side since signing in 1996.

And his key role was underlined

Sunday when he inspired Juve to

come from behind to beat Bologna

4-1 and stay in the three-way race

for the Scudetto.

Juve, deprived of the battling

qualities of midfielder Edgar Davids

who is suspended pending his

doping hearing, showed little sign

of missing the drenched Dutchman

as Zidane stole the show, sometimes

producing gasps of admiration

from even the home fans.

"I'm certain that I won't play until

I'm 35 (years old). Football is

not only a passion when you're young.

It's also pressure. I know that life

exists outside football and I don't

want to die for football," added

Zidane.

The French playmaker has

become an integral part of the Italian

side since signing in 1996.

And his key role was underlined

Sunday when he inspired Juve to

come from behind to beat Bologna

4-1 and stay in the three-way race

for the Scudetto.

Juve, deprived of the battling

qualities of midfielder Edgar Davids

who is suspended pending his

doping hearing, showed little sign

of missing the drenched Dutchman

as Zidane stole the show, sometimes

producing gasps of admiration

from even the home fans.

"I'm certain that I won't play until

I'm 35 (years old). Football is

not only a passion when you're young.

It's also pressure. I know that life

exists outside football and I don't

want to die for football," added

Zidane.

The French playmaker has

become an integral part of the Italian

side since signing in 1996.

And his key role was underlined

Sunday when he inspired Juve