

Primera Liga

Tristan back with a bang

Football

AFP, Madrid

Diego Tristan had gone seven league games without scoring but he ended his barren streak in emphatic fashion as Deportivo La Coruna won 2-0 at Spanish league leaders Celta Vigo on Tuesday.

The Spanish international striker had been finding the net on average every other game until he lost his goalscoring touch in December but, having been given one last chance by Deportivo coach Javier Irureta, he repaid the favour by helping Deportivo to their first away win for nearly four months.

The victory meant Deportivo moved up two places to third, after winning in Vigo for the first time in seven seasons.

Celta continue to lead the Spanish First Division despite the loss, with 40 points from 24 games. Real Madrid and Deportivo are second and third respectively, with the same number of points but an inferior goal difference.

However, Celta's occupation of the top slot is unlikely to last more than 24 hours as Real Madrid travel

to Valladolid on Wednesday.

Alaves also play host to Valencia on Wednesday and should the defending champions falter for the second time in four days, then either of them could go to the head of the table as both teams are only one point adrift of the leading trio.

Celta started the game clearly determined to unsettle their opponents from across the region and the fouls flew in thick and fast, a typical feature of the often brutal duels between the bitter rivals.

Nevertheless, Deportivo kept their cool and seemed to have a legitimate claim for a penalty turned down after only 15 minutes when Nouredine Naybet - back in club colours after Morocco's premature exit from the African Nations Cup - appeared to have been dragged

down in the penalty area by Celta defender Pablo Coira.

Diego Tristan finally broke the deadlock after 32 minutes when the Celta defenders were caught square.

Former Spanish international winger Fran Gonzalez crossed into the box and Tristan chipped the ball over the head of Celta goalkeeper Pablo Cavallero and into the net, while Celta were protesting fruitlessly about him being offside.

Celta were again caught asleep, with their last man almost on the half way line, after 64 minutes and Juan Carlos Valeron found Tristan roaming forward unmarked.

Valeron had little trouble finding his likely room mate during Spain's forthcoming World Cup campaign and Tristan only had to round

Cavellero for his 10th goal of the season.

Celta ended their miserable night with only 10 men after their Brazilian midfielder Wagner was given his marching orders for scything down Tristan eight minutes from time.

Irureta wisely substituted a limping Tristan immediately in order to save him from further assaults by the frustrated Celta players.

For the second time in as many games, Tristan left the field to whistles and howls of derision.

On Saturday, it was his own supporters who heralded his departure in such a fashion - Tristan has been blamed by the Deportivo faithful for being an egotist and greedy in front of goal - but this time it was the less-than-sporting opposition supporters who were glad to see him go.

Celta's Balados stadium was filled to its 31,800 capacity but only 120 of them were Deportivo supporters.

However, Tristan was given a rousing send off by the tiny contingent of visitors and he celebrated his return to their affections by throwing his jersey into their midst after the final whistle.

Italy cancel Australia friendly

AFP, Sydney

Italian officials have cancelled a football friendly with Australia in favour of a game against Australia's World Cup conquerors, Uruguay, Soccer Australia said Wednesday.

In a letter to Soccer Australia, the Italian Football Association said it wanted South American opponents in the lead-up to the World Cup finals in June.

"They advised us they have organised a match with Uruguay for April 17 in Italy - the same date we were going to play them," a Soccer Australia spokesman said.

It would have been the first time Italy and Australia had played at senior international level.

But the match had always been an on-again, off-again proposition after concerns over financial arrangements.

Soccer Australia had threatened to pull out in October because it was unhappy with the deal struck by match promoter IEC.

Euro elite for new look UEFA Cup

Football

AFP, Nyon, Switzerland

Top European clubs on Tuesday gave their backing to proposals for an overhaul of the UEFA Cup with the introduction of a group phase from 2003, footballing officials said.

After the annual club workshop at the headquarters of European football's governing body, UEFA said the 73 teams supported replacing the current knockout format with eight groups of four clubs from the 2003 to 2004 season.

The two top clubs would qualify from each group in the revised UEFA Cup to whittle the competition down to the last 16.

The group stage of 32 teams would be preceded by three knockout qualifying rounds, UEFA chief executive Gerhard Aigner said.

"There was a genuine wish of introducing a group stage with eight groups (involving) 32 clubs," Aigner said.

"This new concept could start at

the earliest in the season of 2003 to 2004," he added.

The proposals, which still need to be ironed out in detail, would have to be approved by Europe's football associations and the UEFA executive committee. Aigner said the format would need approval by the summer to be introduced next year.

The UEFA Cup is open to teams who finish below the top places in their domestic leagues.

"Ultimately we hope the UEFA Cup can sustain itself in its own right," the vice chairman of leading English Premiership club Arsenal, David Dein, said.

But Aigner said there was no agreement on continuing to allow clubs that do not qualify in the Champions League group stage to come down to the UEFA Cup.

"We detected a small majority of clubs not wishing for this to take place," he added.

UEFA also unveiled plans to test artificial turf, but there was a mixed reaction amongst the clubs, team officials said.

"I think it's a controversial subject," Dein commented after the two-

day meeting.

But AC Milan general manager Umberto Gandini said he was more interested in the idea even if the Italian club could not take part in any tests because it is involved in European matches.

"I think there is a serious interest, including in my club, to consider the possibility of artificial turf in Italy," he said.

UEFA said it was ready to back about half the costs of equipping one ground in a country with a new generation synthetic pitch to test over a professional league season, preferably in second or Third Divisions.

"Our challenge is if we can get it accepted in the big leagues, obviously there are a lot of east European clubs which would like it," UEFA official Lars-Christer Olsson said.

Dein said there was "unanimous approval" amongst clubs for UEFA moves to set up a new "club forum" to improve consultation between the governing body and top teams.

Six-match ban for Bowyer

AFP, London

Leeds United and England under-21 midfielder Lee Bowyer was hit with a six match ban and fined 10,000 pounds (14,000 dollars) Tuesday after being found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute by the English Football Association (FA).

Bowyer's ban is for elbowing Liverpool's Gary McAllister in last year's 2-0 FA Cup defeat and of using foul and abusive language towards a referee during Leeds' Premiership win over Arsenal at Highbury in August when he was sent off for two bookable offences.

Bowyer's team-mate Danny Mills was also in hot water with the FA.

The English international defender was given a two-match ban and fined 7,500 pounds for using foul and abusive language towards a fourth official in the tunnel at Arsenal after being dismissed for two yellow card offences in the same volatile Highbury clash.

Saudis a different proposition



AFP, Riyadh

Brazil face a tougher test here on Wednesday against World Cup qualifiers Saudi Arabia than they faced in their 6-0 drubbing of a second-string Bolivia side last week.

Saudi Arabia are fresh from winning the Gulf Cup tournament last month with an improbable 3-1 win over Qatar after being led 1-0 as late as the 77th minute.

The hosts will want to avoid a repeat of the scoreline when the two countries last met, in the Confederations Cup, in 1999 in Mexico, when Brazil won 8-2.

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari earmarked the win over Bolivia, this

match and the next game, against Colombia next month, as a chance to experiment ahead of the World Cup finals - and that was the case against Bolivia as Kaka and Kleberson formed a new midfield partnership.

Scolari has taken advantage of the closer proximity of the Gulf to call up one of his Spanish-based players, Djalminha, the Deportivo La Coruna midfielder.

But the South Americans again have to do without their European-based stars such as Rivaldo of Barcelona, Real Madrid defender Roberto Carlos and rising star Ronaldinho, who plays for Paris Saint Germain.

And there is still no place for Romario, despite calls for the top scorer in the 1994 World Cup to be recalled in the light of fresh injuries to Ronaldo.

Saudi coach Nasser Al-Jawhar is also testing his options for the World

Cup finals and has called up three midfielders who played no part in the Gulf Cup - Nawaf Tamiyat, Mohammed Nour and Abdelaziz al-Khatran.

Scolari meanwhile announced last week that he will be quitting his job after this year's World Cup finals.

"My contract with the Brazilian football federation finishes at the end of the World Cup no matter how the results go," he said.

Scolari took over in June 2001 when the four-time world champions were struggling to qualify for the finals and he faced criticism for favouring a technical and sometimes dour style of play.

Brazil recovered and qualified third in the South American qualifying group.

The match against Saudi Arabia is the second of seven warm-up matches prior to the finals in June.



PHOTO:AFP

A porter at auction house Christie's South Kensington office in London on February 5, holds the jersey worn by Brazilian football legend Pele during the final of the 1970 World Cup against Italy in Mexico. The shirt is expected to fetch between 30,000 and 50,000 pounds (49,000 and 82,000 euros) at Christie's Football Memorabilia sale on March 27.

TV GUIDE

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Tho!</div><div>3:20 Cartoon: Samurai X</div><div>3:40 Shukhi Poribar</div><div>4:00 Khabar</div><div>4:05 Sports Programme</div><div>4:30 Ittyadi</div><div>5:00 News Headlines</div><div>6:00 Khabar</div><div>6:35 Dharma O' Jibon</div><div>7:00 News Headlines</div><div>7:05 Ei Prithibi</div><div>7:30 Shondha Maloti</div><div>8:00 News in Bengali</div><div>8:25 Ekusah Amr Ohonkar</div><div>8:35 Ocean Girl</div><div>9:00 News Headlines</div><div>9:05 Drama Serial: Otopor Tahara</div><div>9:30 Shurer Akashe</div><div>10:00 News at Ten</div><div>10:25 Orthonotik Porikroma</div><div>11:00 Shur Lahori</div><div>11:30 Khabar / The News</div><div>EkUSHEY TV</div><div>12:00pmEkushey Middy</div><div>12:30 Chardike</div><div>1:00 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom</div><div>1:30 Documentary Programmed - Japan Video Tropic</div><div>1:50 Classic Cartoons</div><div>2:10 Surer Prodeep</div><div>2:40 Drishti</div><div>3:00 Ekushey Headlines</div><div>3:05 Drama Serial</div><div>3:30 Chips &amp; Bytes</div><div>4:00 Surer Prodeep</div><div>4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom</div><div>5:00 Circus Circus</div><div>5:30 Drishti</div><div>5:50 Aikjer Potrikey</div><div>6:00 Ekushey Headlines</div><div>6:05 Classic Cartoons</div><div>6:30 Radhunee Rannaghor</div><div>6:55 Ekushey Headlines</div><div>7:00 Deshjure</div><div>7:30 Ekushey News</div><div>8:00 Drama : Jibon Boro Sundor</div><div>9:00 Ekushey News (English)</div><div>9:05 Serial : Alif Laila</div><div>10:00 News: Simulcast from BTV</div><div>11:00 Ekushey Nightly News</div><div>12:00 E Shoptaher Bishsho</div><div>12:30 Ekushey News Headlines</div></div>	<div><div>HBO</div><div>6:30amFire in the Sky</div><div>8:45 Blue Thunder</div><div>11:30 Facing the Enemy</div><div>1:00 Raising Cain</div><div>3:00 St. Melo's Fire</div><div>5:15 Casper</div><div>7:15 Bugsy</div><div>10:00 The Art of War</div><div>12:15 The Saint</div><div>2:30 Blue Thunder</div><div>4:45 St. Elmo's World</div><div>BBC WORLD</div><div>6:00 BBC News</div><div>6:30 World Business Report</div><div>7:00 BBC News</div><div>7:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report</div><div>8:00 BBC News</div><div>8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report</div><div>9:00 BBC News</div><div>9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report</div><div>10:00 BBC News</div><div>10:30 Hardtalk</div><div>11:00 BBC News</div><div>11:30 World Business Report</div><div>12:00 BBC News</div><div>12:30 World Business Report</div><div>1:00 BBC News</div><div>1:30 World Business Report/Sport Today</div><div>2:00 BBC News</div><div>2:30 Holiday</div><div>3:00 BBC News</div><div>3:30 Simpson's World</div><div>Directs ex World Rev(1)</div><div>4:00 BBC News</div><div>4:30 East Asia Today/Sport Today</div><div>5:00 BBC News</div><div>5:30 Hardtalk</div><div>STAR GOLD</div><div>7:00amBiwi Ho To Aisi (Rekha, Farouque Sheikh)</div><div>10:30 Bollywood News</div><div>11:00 Geet Bahar</div><div>11:30 Jagriti (Abhi Bhattacharya, Pranoti Ghosh)</div><div>3:00pmBollywood News</div><div>4:00 Naya Din Nai Raat (Sanjeev Kumar, Jaya Bhaduri)</div><div>7:00 Geet Bahar</div><div>7:30 Lamhe Pyaar Ke :</div></div>	<div><div>Saathi (Rajendra Kumar, Vijayantimala)</div><div>11:00 Bollywood News</div><div>11:30 Jeene Ki Raah (Jeetendra, Tanuja)</div><div>STAR MOVIES</div><div>7:00 Action : Rocky IV</div><div>9:00 Drama : Torso</div><div>10:30 Action : The Phantom Menace</div><div>12:45 Drama : Instinct</div><div>2:45 Action : Deadly Passage</div><div>4:15 Comedy : Coupe De Ville</div><div>6:00 Action : Terminal Velocity</div><div>7:45 Thriller : Thomas Crown Affair</div><div>9:30 Action : Robin Hood Prince of Thieves</div><div>11:45 Thriller : Liar's Club</div><div>STAR PLUS</div><div>6:00amSanskriti</div><div>6:30 Geet Bahar</div><div>7:30 Hum Saath Aath Hain</div><div>8:00 Aatma</div><div>9:00 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet</div><div>9:30 Fox Kids Daily</div><div>10:10 Hit Geet</div><div>10:25 Kya Film Kya Geet</div><div>10:30 Small Wonder</div><div>11:00 Main</div><div>11:30 Meri Saheli</div><div>12:00 Shanti</div><div>12:30 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet</div><div>1:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain</div><div>1:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii</div><div>2:00 Sanskruti</div><div>2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi</div><div>3:00 Shagun</div><div>3:35 Film Toppers</div><div>3:30 Kasauti Zindagi Kay</div><div>4:00 Kabhi Sauten Kabhi Saheli</div><div>4:30 Kaahin Kissii Roz</div><div>5:00 Meri Saheli</div><div>5:30 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet</div><div>6:00 Small Wonder</div><div>6:30 Fox Kids</div><div>7:20 Aaj Ki Baat</div><div>7:25 Kya Kilm Kya Geet</div><div>7:30 Sanskruti</div><div>7:55 Film Toppers</div><div>8:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain</div><div>8:30 Kundali</div><div>9:00 Kasautii Zindagi Kay</div></div>	<div><div>TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS</div><div>EkUSHEY: 8:00p.m. <i>Jibon Boro Shundor</i>. This is a story about the family of an old lady, whose three sons are one of a kind. The elder one always plans to sell their property and live a happy life. Her second son is so lazy that someone else has to close his eyes so that he can sleep. And finally the youngest one, he is so miserly that in the winter he does not wear anything because they will get dirty.</div><div>STAR WORLD: 6:00 &amp; 9:30p.m. <i>Roswell</i>. July 3, 1947: The crash of a spaceship, an event officially but never effectively denied by the United States government. In tonight's episode Liz gets visions about a space ship crashing to earth - Max, Michael and Isabel's ship.</div><div>AXN: 10:30p.m. <i>The Thing</i>. Based on both the short story by John W. Campbell, Jr. and the 1951 film produced by Howard Hawks, THE THING is John Carpenter's stunning masterpiece of horror. A group of weary scientists enduring the winter in an isolated camp deep in Antarctica chance upon an alien spacecraft buried in the ice.</div></div>	<div><div>PICK OF THE DAY</div><div>The Art of War</div><div>On HBO at 10:00p.m.</div><div>At the dawn of the millennium, the UN will sign a trade treaty with China that will catapult China into the big league. But someone is trying to sabotage the summit, and secret agent Neil Shaw (Snipes) and his boss Eleanor Hooks (Archer) believe that Chinese UN ambassador Wong is behind everything. But when he is assassinated at a formal banquet, Shaw is mistaken for the assassin.</div></div>	<div><div>6:30 Core Culture</div><div>7:30 Pacific Blue I</div><div>8:30 Seven Days Come Again?</div><div>9:30 Scariest Places On Earth</div><div>10:30 Thu Horror Movie The Thina</div><div>ZEE CINEMA</div><div>1:30 Holiday In Bombay</div><div>4:00 Kuch Lamhe Kuch Nagme</div><div>4:15 Chehren</div><div>4:30 Qaidi</div><div>7:00 Dadamoni (A Tribute To The Legend (Ashok Kumar)</div><div>7:30 Kanwardal</div><div>10:15 Movie Fare</div><div>10:30 Jawan Mohabbat</div><div>1:15 Madhyantar</div><div>1:30 Choti Si Mulaqat</div><div>5:00 Darpan</div><div>5:15 Tara Rum</div><div>17:15 Film Time</div><div>6:00 Chacha Bhatija</div><div>9:15 Yaadein Radio Ceylon Ki</div><div>9:30 Top Of The Tops</div><div>10:00 Anari No 1</div><div>1:15 Cine News</div><div>ZEE TV</div><div>5:30 News in Hindi</div><div>6:00 Yaadon Ke Pal</div><div>6:30 Bhakti Bhav</div><div>7:00 Yoga For Life</div><div>7:20 Jagran</div><div>7:50 Zee Gym &amp; Eat Healthy</div><div>8:20 News</div><div>8:30 Ardhangini</div><div>8:45 Yaaden Radio Ceylon Ki</div><div>9:00 Nickelodeon On Zee</div><div>10:00 Tomorrow's World</div><div>10:30 Ocean Worlds</div><div>11:30 Toyota World of Wildlife</div><div>12:00 Africa From the Ground Up</div><div>6:30 The Day The Ocean Boiled</div><div>7:30 Family Hour</div><div>8:00 Wild</div><div>9:30 Dogs With Jobs</div><div>10:00 Tomorrow's World</div><div>10:30 Ocean Worlds</div><div>11:30 Toyota World of Wildlife</div><div>12:00 Africa From the Ground Up</div><div>AXN</div><div>6:30 Movie: Joe Kidd</div><div>8:30 Core Culture</div><div>9:30 Seven Days</div><div>10:30 Pensacola III</div><div>11:30 Pacific Blue I</div><div>12:30 Fear Factor</div><div>1:30 Seven Days</div><div>2:30 Movie: Joe Kidd</div><div>4:30 Boardwild/Alfred Hitchcock Presents</div><div>5:30 Fear Facto</div></div>	<div><div>9:30 Choti Maa Ek Anokha Bandhan</div><div>10:00 Kohi Apna Sa</div><div>10:30 Aaj Bhi ... Ateet</div><div>11:00 Dollar Bahu</div><div>11:30 Agrichakra</div><div>12:00 Gharana</div><div>12:30 Tarazu Thursday Hits</div><div>13:00 Aaaya ToofanFeature Film</div><div>5:30 News In Hindi</div><div>ZEE MUSIC</div><div>6:00 Music Plus</div><div>7:00 Aalaap</div><div>7:30 Tara Rum</div><div>8:30 Hit Pe Hit</div><div>9:30 Hit Pe Hit</div><div>10:30 Hit Mix</div><div>11:00 Just Jammin</div><div>11:30 Music Box</div><div>12:00 Music Plus</div><div>1:00 Hit Pe Hit</div><div>2:00 Jharokha</div><div>2:35 Cool Age</div><div>3:05 Tara Rum</div><div>4:00 Hit Pe Hit</div><div>5:00 Music Box</div><div>5:30 Hit Mix</div><div>6:00 Blue</div><div>6:30 Music Plus</div><div>7:30 Hit Pe Hit</div><div>8:30 Pyaar Mohabbat Etc</div><div>9:00 Artist Of The Fortnight</div><div>9:30 Zee Music Box</div><div>10:30 Sizzlers</div><div>10:30 Jharokha</div><div>11:05 Dil Se</div><div>11:35 Phoren Maal</div><div>12:35 Shahab</div><div>1:00 Music Box</div><div>1:30 Jharokha</div><div>3:00 Hit Pe Hit</div><div>3:00 Next Generation</div><div>3:30 Tara Rum</div><div>4:30 Phone Maal</div><div>5:30 Sizzlers</div><div>ALPHA TV</div><div>6:00 Kancher Dewal</div><div>6:30 Bideshini Bodhu</div><div>7:00 Jemon Bolben Sir</div><div>7:30 Surer Ei Jhamadhara</div><div>8:00 Kicu Smriti Kichu Gaan</div><div>8:30 Gaan Unltd.</div><div>9:00 Bhagya Chakra</div><div>9:05 Bharat Bhraman</div><div>9:30 Trityo Purush/Half</div></div>	<div><div>Chocolate</div><div>10:00 Chena Mukher Shari Achena Manush</div><div>10:30 Nijei Nayak</div><div>11:00 Kacher Dewal</div><div>11:30 Andolan</div><div>12:00 Swapno Niye</div><div>12:30 Akasher Niche</div><div>1:00 Iska Baner Bibi</div><div>1:30 Ek Akasher Niche</div><div>2:00 Pratibimba</div><div>2:30 Feature Film</div><div>5:00 Andolan</div><div>5:30 Football</div><div>6:00 News in Bengali</div><div>6:30 Kancher Dewal</div><div>7:00 Jemon Bolben Sir</div><div>7:30 Ki Likhi Tomay/Abhinetri</div><div>8:00 Patibimba</div><div>8:30 Ek Akasher Niche</div><div>9:15 Chena Mukh Shari</div><div>9:45 Iska Baner Bibi</div><div>10:25 Bichitra</div><div>11:00 New s</div><div>11:30 Trityo Purush/Half Chocolate</div><div>12:00 Jemon Bolben Sir</div><div>12:30 Bengali Feature Film</div><div>3:00 Purobi Bangla</div><div>3:30 Bharat Bhraman</div><div>4:00 Pratibimba</div><div>4:30 Ek Akasher Niche</div><div>5:00 Chena Mukher Shari</div><div>5:30 Football</div><div>HALL MARK</div><div>5:30 Sesame Street</div><div>6:30 Reason For Living</div><div>8:30 The Hound of The Baskervilles</div><div>10:30 The Young Riders</div><div>11:30 Run For The Dream: The Gail Devers Story</div><div>1:30 Sliders</div><div>2:30 Sesame Street</div><div>3:30 Scholastic Clifford</div><div>3:30 Caillous</div><div>4:30 The Young Riders</div><div>5:30 Star Trek: Voyager</div><div>6:00 Sliders</div><div>7:30 Missing Pieces</div><div>9:30 Star Trek: Voyager</div><div>10:30 Life With Judy Garland : Me and My Shadows</div><div>12:30 Macshayne: Winner Takes All</div><div>2:30 Katts and Dog</div><div>3:30 Macshayne: Winner Takes All</div><div>5:30 Sesame Street</div></div>
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