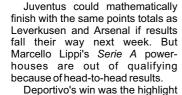
# 'Super Depor' soar, Juve is history



Arsenal's dreams of European Champions League glory were left hanging in the balance after a 2-0 defeat by Deportivo La Coruna as Italian giants Juventus were dumped out of the competition.

The Group D fate of Arsene Wenger's will now depend on other results next week after goals from Juan Carlos Valeron and Nourredine Naybet fired the Galicians to a deserved victory.

The win assured Deportivo of a place in the last eight, but leaves Arsenal and Bayer Leverkusen vying for the second qualifying spot from the group. Juventus were eliminated when they crashed 3-1 at Leverkusen in the night's other



of a good night for Spanish clubs, with Real Madrid underscoring their superiority in Group C with a 3-0 win over Sparta Prague at the

#### **DEPORTIVO 2; ARSENAL**

Arsenal, with a 100 percent home record in Europe this season, had gone into their match confident of securing three more points that would put them within touching distance of the quarter-finals.

But Fortress Highbury was well and truly ransacked in a 10-minute attacking burst by Deportivo midway through the first half.



Ronaldo gets Scolari's nod

October and joined the squad but

The 12 foreign-based players

named by Brazil on Tuesday also

ncluded Paris St Germain strike

Ronaldinho Gaucho and Deportivo

Coruna midfielder Dialminha

described by Scolari as a player

who had overcome disciplinary

but today he has a different atti-

scorer in the Portuguese champion-

ship with 30 goals for Sporting, was

based players next week when

attention will again be focused on

whether he picks striker Romario.

Scolari will name the home-

Romario has not played since

captaining Brazil in their 1-0 World

Cup qualifying defeat by Uruguay

last July despite averaging around a

goal a game in domestic football

taken off during Sunday's derby against Flamengo suffering from

apparent heat exhaustion, some-

sure he wasn't the only one suffering

ng Scolari said was normal.

in that weather." said Scolari.

with a heavy cold.

The Vasco da Gama player was

"Athletes are not made of iron, I'm

"I feel pretty bad myself today,"

Scolari says he foresees a three-

added the coach, clearly suffering

pronged attack with Ronaldo along-

side both Barcelona's Rivaldo and

"Ronaldinho" Gaucho of Paris Saint

"He has had trouble in the past

But striker Jardel, who is leading

problems early in his career.

tude." Scolari said.

overlooked.

Hans-Joerg Butt (C) the Bayer Leverkusen custodian, celebrates his penalty goal against

2CO2 FIFA WORLD CUP was sent back to Italy after doctors

KOREA APAN agreed he was not fit to play.
The 12 foreign-based

REUTERS/AFP. Rio de Janeiro

Injury-plagued striker Ronaldo. who

has not played a match since

December because of a thigh

muscle strain, has been named in

the Brazil squad for their World Cup

warm-up with Yugoslavia later this

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolar

said the Inter Milan striker could

face the East Europeans in

Fortaleza on March 27 even if he

Milan earlier on Tuesday, after

completing a one-month rehabilita-

tion programme in Brazil.

during training

the last two years.

standoff.

Ronaldo began training with Inter

"I'm really well now." Ronaldo

Before leaving for Italy, the striker

However, Ronaldo's call-up is

Inter are scheduled to play Roma

on Sunday, March 24th, in a poten-

tial Italian title-decider and the

striker would then have to race for

the airport if he is to have any hope

to play Inter and Roma are joint top

and Inter hope Ronaldo will make

With just eight league games left

His club are unlikely to want to

risk him making a comeback from

his latest injury problems and then head straight back across the Atlan-

tic for immediate international duty.

On February 11 when Inter ver-

reluctantly (and against coach

Hector Cuper's wishes) let Ronaldo

stay in Rio his club president

Massimo Moratti said: "We don't

need to make this into Ronaldo-

"He is an Inter player and a Brazil

player - but first and foremost an

But Scolari is not prepared to

entertain Inter's wishes. "We don't

have time to wait for a decision from

Inter Milan," said Scolari. "Whether

or not he plays for Inter Milan, he will

come to Brazil for the game on the

Year has not played for his country

since the 2-2 draw against the

Since then, he has had two

operations on an injured knee and,

although he made his Serie A come-

back in the second half of last year,

he was then plagued by three mus-

World Cup qualifier against Chile in

Ronaldo was called up for the

cular injuries in quick succession.

Netherlands in October 1999.

The former World Player of the

of getting to Brazil in time.

the Serie A clash.

Inter player.

said he had made a full recovery the

injuries which had haunted him in

likely to spark a club versus country

said during his brief appearance

had not played for his club by then.

#### **RESULTS AT** A GLANCE

Collated Champions League second phase results on Tuesday:

#### GROUPC In Madrid

Real Madrid (Spa) 3 (Solari 60, Guti 64, Savio 71) Sparta Prague (Cze)0

In Oporto, Portugal Porto (Por) 2 (Deco 12, Pena 54) Panathinaikos (Gre) 1 (Kolkka

#### **GROUP D**

In London Arsenal (Eng) 0 Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 2 (Valeron 30, Naybet 40)

In Leverkusen, Germany Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 3 (Butt 24, Brdaric 71, Babic 90) Juventus (Ita) 1 (Tudor 61)

Two rapier thrusts ripped open the Gunners defence Valeron scoring on 30 minutes before Naybet made it two five mintues before the interval

Gilles Grimandi headed over from close range as Arsenal went in search of the goal that would bring them back into the game early in the second half, but Deportivo almost added a third on the hour when Diego Tristan's chipped free-kick clipped the crossbar. Freddie Ljungberg came on in the

61st minute and his introduction paid almost immediate dividends when he earned a penalty for Arsenal when keeper Jose Francisco Molina hauled him down in the box.

But Thierry Henry's spot-kick was well-saved by Molina and Deportivo regrouped to hold out for a win that delighted coach Javier Irureta.

Irureta was overcome with emotion after watching his side claim their second English scalp in Europe this season following their victory over Manchester United earlier in the competition. "We've had a wonderful result

and I would like to congratulate all of my players," he said.

'Nobody could envisage this could happen. We have beaten two of the greatest teams in England. Deportivo are going to be recognised as a great side the world over."

Asked if he thought Arsenal would join his side in the quarterfinals he replied: "Of course. Arsenal are a strong counter-attacking side and with Robert Pires and Thierry

"Among those I called up today

set up a trio of strikers," Scolari, who

suggested that Romario would not

Brazilian media would like to see

Romario partner Ronaldo but

day's Champions League match at

Foreign-based squad players

Defenders - Cafu (AS Roma-

Italy), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid-

Spain), Junior (Parma-Italy), Lucio

(Baver Leverkusen-Germany)

Roque Junior (AC Milan-Italy)

Edmilson (Olympique Lyon-France)

(Deportivo Coruna-Spain), Emer-

son Ferreira (AS Roma-Italy)

Midfielders - Djalminha

Forwards - Denilson (Real Betis-

Spain), Ronaldinho Gaucho (Paris

St Germain-France), Rivaldo (Bar-

celona-Spain), Ronaldo(Inter Milan-

the Nou Camp against Liverpool.

for Brazil v Yugoslavia friendly:

be called upon.



Jaun Carlos Valeron (2nd R) of Deportivo La Coruna scoring against Arsenal at Highbury stadium in London on

Henry they can beat anybody. "I would like them to get a good result in their last match against

Juventus and qualify with us. Arsenal manager Wenger refused to criticise his players for a sloppy first-half showing which allowed Deportivo to seize control of

"I'm extremely proud of my players," he said. "They showed a great attitude but Deportivo were sharper in the first-half. The Frenchman lamented

Henry's missed spot-kick which he believed would have lifted his team's spirits and put Deportivo on the back foot. "If the penalty had gone in it

would have been 2-1 and I think from there we would have eventually drawn level. "The first goal was always going

to be important and we were very

STANDINGS

Standings in Groups C and D in the European Champions League after

**GROUP D** 

Tuesday's matches (played, won, drawn, goals for goals against, points):

unlucky to concede the second just before half-time. That was a big

#### LEVERKUSEN 3; JUVENTUS

Berbatov and Thomas Brdaric were the heroes for the home side, having a superb match as the Germans bounced back from their 4-0 drubbing against Arsenal in style.

Bulgarian Berbatov and Croat Brdaric were in the thick of the action throughout, continually creating problems for Juventus, who looked out of sorts throughout.

Berbatov was involved in the move which led to the home side's 24th-minute penalty - blasted home by keeper Hans-Jorg Butt - and Brdaric nodded home in the 71st minute to put Leverkusen back in front after Igor Tudor had equalised

for Juventus 10 minutes earlier. Marko Babic hit a further strike for

the hosts in the dying seconds after Juventus were left open on the counter-attack as they pressed for a second equaliser.

"This was a superb victory against one of the strongest teams in Europe. We've now given ourselves a chance to qualify for the quarter-finals," said Leverkusen coach Klaus Toppmoller.

"We showed real character and a will to win tonight," he added.

Meanwhile Juve boss Lippi was left to reflect on another unsuccessful European campaign for the 'Old Lady', following their early exit last

"Of course it's disappointing to go out. We were unlucky because we dominated in the second half. But there are so many strong teams in this group, and Leverkusen deserved to win tonight," he added.

### REAL 3; SPARTA 1

assured of their place in the quarter finals, a comfortable victory which saw them preserve their 100 percent record at the top of Group C.

# **PORTO 2; PANATHINAIKOS**

beat Panathinaikos 2-1 to stay in touch for a place in the knockout phase.

lift to Matthias Sammer's men

Ricken, who extended his con-

tract by three years at the end of

January, has recovered from injury

and is ready to enter the fold. Left-

sided midfielder Jorg Heinrich is

also back in action following a

hamstring pull and is expected to be

On a worse note for coach

Sammer, captain Stefan Reuter and

defender Dede are suspended for

the match and midfielder Sebastian

Dortmund are having a superb

season this year in the same vein of

their mid-90s glory days when they

won two Bundesliga titles and the

They didn't have it all their own

way in the previous round however

and only scraped through to the last

eight on away goals against modest

French club Lille with Sammer

saving afterwards improvement

was needed if they wanted to get

42 Scale

44 Record

46 Not

51 On

**52** 1975

member

holders.

maybe

50 Favorable

Eagles

56 Head of

57 Florence

Name

of the

Rose'

author

59 Hebrev

58 "The

France?

vote

further than the quarter-finals.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Retriever

4 Fermi's

8 Gabrielle

Chanel

school's

Web site

address

mouse

group's

salmon

18 Relatives

12 End of a

bit

13 Field

14 Rock

15 Some

17 Maze

19 Tragic

type, for

European Champions League.

on the pitch in Prague.

Kehl is out injured.

# **CUP CORNER**



AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentina have provisionally fixed their World Cup warm-up date with Cameroon for March 27 in Geneva, Argentine Football Association president Julio Grondona said here Tuesday.

Grondona told La Red radio that "we have decided not to hold it (the match) in Spain or Italy and it cannot be held in Africa either.

Saying that the final confirmation was still several hours away Grondona ruled out Belgium as well as the previous candidate, Marseille in southern France

"The problem is that Africa is not on for this friendly. So the alternative is Europe and as the majority of countries have friendlies and we cannot have an overlap so things have got a little complicated for us,"

"We could have played in some Italian or Spanish city on the 26th but the coach (Marcelo Bielsa) would not have been able to have a serious training session with the squad and it's well known that Bielsa takes friendlies as seriously as a match with points at stake," he added. The idea of Marseille foundered on the fact that France are playing

Scotland in Paris on the same day and French authorities were not keen on a second match for security reasons. Argentina will face Group F rivals Nigeria, England and Sweden in

the World Cup opening phase

The South Americans picked Cameroon as a dummy run for Nigeria,

#### **CANIGGIA IN BIELSA'S PLANS**

Buenos Aires Argentina have again given a World Cup chance to veteran forward Claudio Caniggia, including him in the squad for the friendly against

The 35-year-old Caniggia, who made his name alongside Diego Maradona in the Argentina sides of the early 1990s, is currently enjoying a new lease of life in Scotland where he plays for Glasgow Rangers. He was brought back for the first time in four years for another friendly against Wales in February which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Once again coach Marcelo Bielsa snubbed another veteran forward, Gabriel Batistuta, currently out of favour with AS Roma in Italy.

#### **TURKS TO VISIT HONG KONG**

Hong Kong

World Cup-bound Turkey will take part in an exhibition tournament in Hong Kong in May, along with several other unnamed soccer titans, the Hong Kong Football Association said Wednesday.

"We are 90 percent solid that the football team from Turkey will take part in the tournament," he said. "The team has verbally confirmed their presence" in the two-day

tournament expected sometime in May, he said. "At the moment, promoters are talking to a number of other teams," he said although declined to name them as negotiations were still at the

However, press reports said the Hong Kong Football Association had pencilled May 20 and 23 as dates for their two-day exhibition

Portugal was mentioned as one of the possible teams that could be playing in Hong Kong, the South China Morning Post said.

Turkey, who reached the quarter-finals of the European Championship in 2000, will be led by Parma striker Hakan Sukur, who began his career at Galatasaray, Turkey's top side and one of the toughest clubs

Sukur scored four goals in the World Cup qualification matches.

#### THAILAND TO TASTE SAMBA

Football icons Brazil plan to use Thailand as a training ground to sharpen up their fancy footwork ahead of this summer's World Cup in Japan and South Korea, sports officials said Wednesday. The South American giants could also stage a kick-off with Thai-

land's national team before the football extravaganza's opening whis-Thai Football Association Secretary General Worawi Makudi said the Brazilian Football Confederation had informed Thailand's embassy

in Brasilia that they wished to train here before heading to South Korea, where they will play their first-round matches. "They used to come here for training before. I think that is the reason

they want to come here again." Worawi told AFP. Worawi said details of the training arrangement were under negotia-

tion and could include a special bonus for football-mad Thailand -- a friendly between the two nations.

Thailand reached the final round of qualifiers for the 2002 World Cup

Four-time World Cup champions Brazil, who are among the favourites despite struggling to qualify for the finals, are in Group C with China, Costa Rica and Turkey.

### **BEWARE ENGLISHMEN!**

<u>Lagos</u>

Nigeria coach Adegboye Onigbinde said Wednesday World Cup opponents England will be wasting precious time by spying on his team while they are in Britain.

"I have never been afraid of being spied on," said Onigbinde. "All I need do is change a few things in my team from what the spies

saw in training and we will be starting on an even keel.'

Nigeria's 'Super Eagles' take on Paraguay March 26 in London to get their World Cup build-up underway. They will also face Scotland and the Republic of Ireland in Britain before the World Cup. Nigeria's choice of Britain as one of the training sites ahead of the

World Cup in June has come under heavy criticism here. Many have argued that playing and training in Britain would give England a first-hand opportunity to get to know Nigeria's strong and

Both Nigeria and England are drawn in the first round of the World Cup along with Argentina and Sweden in what is considered the most

difficult group of the 32-team championship. England beat Nigeria 1-0 in a friendly match in November, 1994. It

was the only time the countries have clashed at senior international

Superstar Ronaldo (R) runs with Inter Milan team-mate Farinos during a training session at Inter's Appiano Gentile base on March 12.

## Napoli president | UEFA Cup arrested

Real Madrid

FC Porto

Arsenal

Panathinaikos

Sparta Prague

Deportivo La Coruna 5

Baver Leverkusen

Giorgio Corbelli, president of Italian Second Division club Napoli, was orders of Bari magistrates, ANSA news agency reported.

Scolari is not convinced. The arrest warrant was issued in He added: "I have three options. relation to an inquiry to supposed Call them both up, just one or neiillicit sales involving 56-year-old Corbelli's two TV channels ther. I am not vetoing anyone - but I don't guarantee that they will both Telemarket and Telemarket 2. be among the 23 who go to the finals.'

Corbelli this season finally won an epic struggle with the club's Rivaldo could yet give the Brazilformer managing director Corrado ians another fitness headache for Ferlaino for control of the club which the Yuqoslavia game, meanwhile, is on the fringes of the promotion as he is struggling with a right-knee injury aggravated in Saturday's loss at Betis. He may also miss Wednes-

## Former Nigerian international killed

AFP, Lagos

Former Nigeria striker Eyo Martins has been shot dead at his home here, one of the player's teammates said Wednesday

Martins was found dead in a pool of blood at his home late Monday, according to Henry Nwosu who played alongside the striker during the 1980 African Nations Cup.

Nwosu said the player may have been killed by hired assassins as nothing was taken from the late player's home, one of the many gifts each player got for winning the 1980

## Everton sack Smith

AFP, London

Walter Smith was sacked as Everton manager on Wednesday, according to the club's official website. "Everton football club wishes to

announce that its team manager Walter Smith has today left the club, his contract having been terminated," the club said. "The club wishes to thank Mr

Smith for his service since his process of identifying and then

Smith had been in charge of the English Premiership side for three-

# Valencia can expect no favours

6 7 4

10 3

10 7

Football

AFP, Paris

Inter Milan coach Hector Cuper will be hoping to make it a case of many unhappy returns when Valencia face his in-form Italians in the pick of Thursday's UEFA Cup quarter-

The wily Argentinian has enjoyed a dream start to his career at Inter, guiding the perennial underachievers of Italian football to joint top of Serie A in his first season after joining from Valencia last year. But while Cuper was revered at

Valencia after successfully steering them into two Champions League finals, there will no room for sentiment when the two teams meet in Milan on Thursday.

For Valencia the San Siro holds unhappy memories, the famous Milan ground being the scene of their heartbreaking penalty shootout loss in last season's Champions League final.

The Spaniards have also flourished since that defeat to Bayern last year and arrive in Italy as leaders of the Primera Liga, which is now jostling for the tag of the world's strongest league.

Cuper will hope Inter can strike a blow for Italian football in their first leg showdown however. Meanwhile, in other quarter-final

games Thursday, Inter's city rivals

AC Milan travel to the unfamiliar surroundings of Cyprus for their neutral-territory match against Israel's Hapoel Tel Aviv. Hapoel, who have confounded the critics by disposing of English

side Chelsea and Italy's Parma on their way into the last eight, were forced to move the game to Nicosia because of spiralling violence in the Middle East. PSV Eindhoven host Dutch rivals Feyernoord in their last eight fixture

though PSV only just scraped through with a late goal against English club Leeds. Jan Vennegoor pounced to score in the dying seconds of the fourth round, second leg for a 1-0 aggregate victory, knocking last season's

Champions League semi-finalists to

The other quarter-final game sees Borussia Dortmund travel to Czech club Slovan Liberec on Thursday. Borussia Dortmund's interna-

the canvas.

21 Vow prophet 24 Melody 60 Lairs 11 Kon-Tiki 25 Dobbin's 61 Long Museum dinner city 26 Wapiti Solution time: 27 mins 28 Knocks 32 Currier's partner 34 Commit perjury 36 Copenhagen resident 37 Survives 39 Climber's challenge 41 AAA job

By Eugene Sheffer DOWN 16 Tease 1 Band-20 Stashed 21 Baseball's leader Brown 2 Com-22 Pinatubo motion output 3 Ohioans 23 Right 4 Get back 27 Korean 5 Buzz automake 29 Marble Lightye types 30 Snarl 6 Bread 31 Wields a spread 7 D.C. hostneedle

33 Bars ess Perle 8 Cringed 35 Subordinin fear ate Claus 9 Evangelist 38 Prepared Roberts 40 Ferrante & 10 Honey Teicher's comb equipment entree 45 Catcher's

46 Informa tion 47 Piece of informa-48 "You Head' 49 Orpheus ment 53 B&B

TOCLDDLOZ ΜP VUEM CLMG LMW VJUED,

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W J D Q L W G W G J D D Q L W G .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU TAKE
YOUR DOG ALONG TO THE STORE, DOES IT WAIT BEHIND IN THE BARKING LOT? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals L

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

appointment in the summer of 1998. "The club has now begun the appointing a new manager."

and-a-half years but had been under increasing fire following a run of 13 Premiership matches with only one win

A 0-3 FA Cup defeat at the hands tional midfielder Lars Ricken will of Middlesbrough on Sunday return to action for the club, giving a appeared to seal his fate.