Arch foes reach last eight Group B wide open



Old rivals Manchester United and Bayern booked their tickets into the guarter-finals of the European Champions League on Wednesday as Liverpool kept their hopes alive with a gritty draw at Barcelona.

English champions United and holders Bayern played out a dour 0-0 stalemate in their Group Agame at Old Trafford, a point for each side securing their passage into the last

The two teams progressed after French champions Nantes, already eliminated, held Boavista to a 1-1 draw at the Stade Beaujoire, ending the Portuguese team's slim hopes of progressing

MAN UNITED 0; BAYERN

United boss Alex Ferguson said he had expected a tight match against holders Bayern.

"It was a predictable result and a predictable game but I am satisfied with the result," he said. "The important thing is to qualify.' Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld

agreed with Ferguson that there was little to choose from between the two teams. "Both sides showed great

respect for each other and were therefore extremely cautious," he

"The first-half was tactical but United were far more dangerous in the second and we had Oliver Kahn to thank for keeping us in the game.

"Towards the end we tried to slow the game down and play on the counter-attack but a 0-0 at Old Trafford is a sign of a good defence."

United finish their programme with an away match at Boavista and Ferguson will demand they finish the schedule with a flourish with Bayern set for three home points against Nantes

"We've got to win that game now. We tried to win the match tonight and it was important to win the match, but two very good teams and overall you can't complain."

NANTES 1; BOAVISTA 1 Nantes and Boavista of Portugal

drew 1-1 at the Nantes' Stade



ball and fired past Mickael Landreau in the Nantes goal.

However, the stalemate means neither side can progress to the last eight following the Old Trafford draw between Manchester United and holders Bayern Munich.

A win would have left the Portobased side with seven points and still able to catch the leading pair. Instead, the profligacy of Duda meant it was not to be.

But while the qualifying picture was settled in Group A, there is still everything to play for in Group B, where four teams - AS Roma, Galatasaray, Barcelona and Liverpool - can all qualify.

Phil Thompson's Liverpool, bottom of the group at the start of Wednesday's matches, put up a brave display to share the points

with Barcelona at the Nou Camp,

second goal our play deserved, frustrated Roma coach Capello

police sought to intervene.

"You have to just compliment Galatasaray because they achieved exactly what they came here to do."

equalised for Roma to the relief of

the home fans at the Olympic

for an ugly free-for-all between both

sides, with players jostling each

other and Roma's Brazilian

midfielder Francisco Lima swinging

punches as stewards attempted to

squared up to each other on the way

to the tunnel and stewards and riot

coaching staff could be seen trying

to provoke Lima while one unidenti-

fied player with the Istanbul club

"We did not manage to create the

was seen jostling with stewards.

Players from both teams

Members of the Galatasaray

The final whistle was the signal

Stadium in an ill-tempered match.

BARCELONA 0; LIVERPOOL

means that the English side need only beat Roma at Anfield next week to progress to the knockout phase. Assistant coach Thompson admitted after the battling draw in

Spain that Liverpool had been stung by remarks attributed to several of arcelona's Dutch players in the build-up to the match deriding the Mersevsiders' style. "What better way to motivate a team? Especially when such criti-

cism is made by players who will be spending the summer in Disneyland and not Japan," Thomspon said, referring to Holland's failure to qualify for this summer's World Cup.

"We played very well and better offensively than we did last year. The players did themselves proud as it's a difficult place to come and get a win," commented Thompson. But Thompson's words cut little

RESULTS AT

Collated Champions League

Group A At Manchester

Manchester United (Eng) 0 Bayern Munich (Ger) 0 At Nantes, France Nantes (Fra) 1 (Moldovan 43) Boavista (Por) 1 (Martelinho 78)

At Barcelona, Spain Barcelona (Spa) 0 Liverpool (Eng)

AS Roma (Ita) 1 (Cafu 53) Galatasaray (Tur) 1 (Umit Karan

ice with Barcelona coach Charly Rexach.

"Liverpool only seem to be a threat from freekicks and corners We dominated the game for the first 15 minutes and were unlucky not to score. In truth we had three or four clearcut chances, but perhaps we would have needed 10 to get a

The best chance at the Nou Camp fell to Barcelona after 68 minutes, when French international defender Philippe Cristanval hit the post and Philip Cocu could not pounce on the ball quick enough to stab home the rebound.

By contrast, Liverpool's best chances came in the first half, with Emile Heskey going close after nine minutes and then Steven Gerrard glancing a header past the post of Barcelona goalkeeper Roberto Bonano midway through the first

Liverpool's central defenders Sami Hyypia and Stephane Henchoz again proved that they are one of the most efficient partnerships in Europe and stifled most of the Barcelona attacks without a minimum of difficulty, helped by Rivaldo struggling throughout the

STANDINGS

Champions League second round tables after Wednesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Group A												
Manchester United	5	2	3	0	10	3	9					
Bayern Munich	5	2	3	0	3	1	9					
Boavista	5	1	2	2	2	5	5					
Nantes	5	0	2	3	3	9	2					
Group B												
Roma	5	1	4	0	6	3	7					
Barcelona	5	1	3	1	6	7	6					
Galatasaray		5	0	5	0	5						
5 5												
Liverpool	5	0	4	1	2	4	4					



Japanese music fans have shown the red card to an official World Cup song for Japan and South Korea, which will co-host the World Cup finals from May 31 to June 30. "We have virtually no reaction at

all." Yasuhiro Takahashi said Thursday, a clerk at the huge HMV music store in Shiniuku, one of the busiest districts in Tokyo. "We put up the big display

promoting the song so that people would notice it, but our sales figures showed just the opposite," Takahashi said, adding his shop had only sold 20 copies of the CD single "Let's Get Together Now", a day after the song went on sale. The poor response was in spite

of a massive marketing effort including radio airtime and expensive full-page advertisements in national newspapers featuring the participating Japanese and South Korean artists.

"As a newly released CD, this is really a low sale," Takahashi said. Priced at 1,020 yen (eight dollars), "Let's Get Together Now," a pop-call for reconciliation between longtime foes Japan and Korea, includes versions in both languages, but the CD is sold only

Defstar Records Inc., which markets the CD, said the company has yet to decide whether to sell it overseas. Defstar Records is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

in Japan as there is no market for

CD singles in South Korea.

Defstar said it aimed to sell one million copies of the song, and maintained the company had received positive feedback on the song from record shops nation-

"Sales are really good," a company official said, although she said she had no precise figures so far. "On the first day of sales, the song ranked top in a daily hit chart."

The song is about loving and understanding each other. South Korean duo Brown Eyes, USbased Korean Lena Park, Japanese female vocalist Sowelu and Japanese duo Chemistry teamed up for the project.

OFFICIAL GUIDEBOOK **DUE TODAY**

official guidebook for the World Cup will go on sale Friday in the host countries Japan and South Korea, its publisher and the Japan Football Association said Thursday. The book, which includes the

pictures and details of 576 players from 32 participating countries, will also be available in more than 60 countries and in 20 languages within a month. It will be the first time the official

uidebook will be distributed on that scale. its editor Toru Yano of publisher Kodansha said.

"So far as I know, it was put on sale in only five or six countries in the past. Each country can use 10 percent of the pages for their own team. The Japanese edition has more pages for Japan," Yano said.

The book, priced at 1,500 yen (11.6 dollars) in Japan, features special stories of French star Zinedine Zidane, the most valuable player at the 1998 World Cup, and Italian striker Alessandro Del

The Japanese edition has its own pages for star midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata, while the Korean edition carries a story on Seol Ki-Hyeon. The price of the book will differ

from country to country, Yano said. The official World Cup programme, available at 20 stadiums in South Korea and Japan, and the review in July will be produced by the same company.

"It is important to give fans more information about such a fantastic event like the World Cup and their opponents," Japan's head coach Philippe Troussier said. Japan Football Association

resident Shunichiro Okano said: The role of this book is important in order to make the World Cup

CUP CORNER | Premiership

Jimmy buries Spurs

Football

AFP, London

Dutch striker Jimmy-Floyd Hasselbaink blasted a superb hattrick as Chelsea dished out a second 4-0 drubbing in four days against hapless London rivals Tottenham at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday

Hasselbaink struck two wonderful 25-yard curlers and netted a powerful header to take his personal goal tally for the season to 27.

Adding to Tottenham and former Chelsea boss Glenn Hoddle's woes was a red card for Mauricio Taricco. dismissed for a wild challenge on Graeme Le Saux. The two players had clashed in Sunday's FA Cup game, with Le Saux being redcarded.

Frank Lampard made it 4-0 in the final minute as Claudio Ranieri's team repeated their FA Cup quarterfinal success.

The result meant Chelsea moved into fifth place, five points behind Newcastle who currently occupy the last automatic Champions League place open to English clubs. Ranieri admitted the Blues now

had their sights on closing the gap with Newcastle and seizing a Champions League berth. Ranieri hopes to make up the five-point gap to Newcastle and

steal fourth spot, the final berth for entry to the Champions League. "It's important we have the mentality to try and get into fourth place. We must always try and win

because the Champions League is

still far away," the Italian said. "At the beginning of the season, my target was to improve on last season, when we finished sixth. It's very important for us to win games now as I want to try and get in the Champions League.

"We must always try and win, because if we lose or draw one, there'll be too few games left to get to the Champions League. "I said to the players before the

game tonight I wanted another good performance and it was important for us to play both with passion and "I have good players and everybody works very hard. We've had a

lot of good performances, but now I've forgotten them and want to look forwards ' Ranieri also hat-trick hero

Hasselbaink, whose trio of strikes

contained two candidates for goal of the season.

"He scored three fantastic goals. think it's the best season of his career and don't think only about the goals, as he works very hard for the

"He's a special man and wants to score special goals. It's important when you hit the net - and all his goals tonight were fabulous," he

Hasselbaink's goal fest began in the 23rd minute when his first longrange effort gave Spurs' Scotland



JIMMY-FLOYD HASSELBAINK

keeper Neil Sullivan no chance. Down to 10 men after Taricco's 59-th minute dismissal, Spurs were 2-0 down 10 minutes later when Jesper Gronkiaer's cross was headed home by an unmarked Hasselbaink.

The forward saved his best for last with a sublime strike, cutting in from the right wing before letting fly with a left foot curler that arrowed into the top corner, Lampard lashed in the fourth in the final seconds. In Wednesday's other

Premiership match, League Cup holders Blackburn boosted their fight against relegation with a 2-1 win over fellow strugglers Ipswich at Ewood Park. Andy Cole, an England reject

when Hoddle was in charge of the national team, scored his seventh

steer the club out of the Premiership relegation zone.

The former Manchester United striker, a 7million pounds (9.94million dollars) buy from Old Trafford, signed off in style - he starts a three-match suspension on

Cole grabbed the second goal of the game after Damien Duff's

superb solo effort. Ipswich responded through striker Marcus Stewart but couldn't level as they went down to their fourth straight defeat.

Blackburn opened the scoring after 19 minutes. Duff received the ball up on the left, cut inside and beat three Ipswich players before beating Matteo Sereni with a shot from the edge of the area.

Blackburn added a second goal in the 43rd minute thanks to another flowing move, Cole rounding off after neat play by Tugay and David

In the 55th minute Ipswich hit back when Stewart found space to head in a Mark Venus corner. But that was as good as it got for

the 'Tractor Boys', who despite a great post-Christmas fightback are now just one place outside the relegation zone, level on points with third from bottom Bolton.

points tonight - and it's a big three points for us." said relieved Blackburn boss Graeme Souness. "We sat back for 45 minutes but I thought for the first 45 we were

"I think we deserved the three

excellent. "We got the goals and then became nervous - but that's under-

standable. Ipswich manager George Burley added on Sky Sports News: "I'm very disappointed we did not get

something out of the game. "But you cannot afford not to start until the second half.

"We have got to go and compete and play and we did neither in the first half which is disappointing."

Premiership's top six

English Premiership table after Wednesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

anotu	30	10	-	,	7.5	01	01
senal	29	17	9	3	58	31	60
/erpool	30	17	8	5	50	25	59
ewcastle	29	17	4	8	52	38	55
nelsea	29	13	11	5	54	30	50
eds	29	12	12	5	39	29	48

Cuper's advice for Scolari



2002 FIFA WORLD CUP

AFP, Appiano Gentile

Inter Milan's Argentinian coach Hector Cuper said Wednesday that Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari would be well advised not to pick Ronaldo until he had played for

On Tuesday Scolari called up the

25-year-old hitman for the friendly

for Yugoslavia just 24 hours after the player returned to Italy from Brazil where he has been recuperating from injury - and made it clear Ronaldo would play.

41 Poet

4 Raincoat. 47 A billion

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ACROSS

1 Cochran's

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Gardner

16 Ballad of

lost love

18 Rushmore

figure 19 Frighten-

22 Greek

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tidbit

work

31 Photog

Diane

29 Ravel

12 Carte

14 Hag 15 Snaps

"But I am. however, going to continue with the path I have in mind KOREA APAN regarding the return for Ronaldo."

It has been speculated that Sunday's match at Lecce or the UEFA Cup quarter-finals with ery in Brazil instead of return to Italy

Spain would be too soon for Ronaldo with the Roma match the most likely date for the player to come back, either as a starter or a

21 Over-

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24 Embar-

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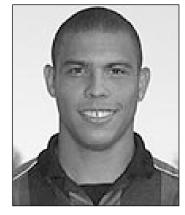
30 "Eureka!"

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Last month, when Inter reluc-

tantly and against Cuper's wishes

authorised the player to attend the

RONALDO

the Serie A club's president Massimo Moratti admitted there were tensions between Inter and Brazil over how the player should be handled.

Turks call it 'fascism'

AS Roma's Brazilian veteran Cafu (R)celebrates his equaliser against

Galatasaray with team-mate Francesco Totti while Galatasaray's Colombian

custodian Farid Mondragon stands stunned at Rome on March 13.



Viorel Moldovan gave the French

league champions a 43rd-minute

lead as he took advantage of a mix

up in the Portuguese defence

resulting from a mishit Jorge Silva clearance to slot the ball calmly past

keeper Pereira Ricardo.

AFP, ANKARA

in the year 2002.

Turkey's foreign minister on Thursday added his voice to the wave of protests that followed the brawl at the end of the European Champions League match between AS Roma and Galatasaray branding Italian police tactics as fascist.

angry Ismail Cem. It was like being back in fascist Italy in the time of Mussolini and not

'This is very serious," said an

"The Italian police showed no mercy striking our players with their sticks in front of the dressing rooms. The fighting between players

and team officials of AS Roma and Galatasaray, an Istanbul-based club broke out at the end of the match which was crucial to both side's hopes of qualifying for the quarter-finals of the lucrative com-

As the situation became more and more confused, Italian riot

police were seen moving in to try and restore order but it was several minutes before players and officials of the Turkish side could leave the

the Merseysiders holding the

ROMA 1; GALATASARAY

Capello's AS Roma were relieved to

field as the Roman crowd howled in protest. Cem said that prior to the match there had been fears of violence from among sections of the notoriously difficult AS Roma fans.

feared would happen to us did," he said, adding that Turkey would present an official note of protest to the Italian authorities. Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit also told a press conference

'Unfortunately what we had

Ankara that he regretted the scuffles at the match. "I was greatly saddened by the attacks against Galatasaray players and officials," he said.

Galatasaray official Abdur Rahman Albayrak said that several of his team's players had sustained injuries after being struck by police

The Turkish press meanwhile also lashed out at the Italian police saying that they had failed to protect the Turkish players from being attacked by their Italian opponents.

Ronaldinho may leave **PSG**

AFP, Paris

Paris Saint Germain's Brazilian international midfielder Ronaldinho has hinted he may leave the troubled French First Division club this summer. The talented attacker said in an

interview to be published in Thursday's edition of Le Parisien Aujourd'hui magazine that though he hoped to stay with PSG he could yet seek a transfer. "I hope to have a good season next year. But where that will be, I

don't know," Ronaldinho said. "All I

can say is that I hope to stay but I

could also leave. "I like Paris and PSG, and I could very easily stay here for 10 more years. But I want to be playing in the big European competitions," the South American added.

Hammam new **AFC** boss



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Qatar's Mohammad bin Hammam called Thursday for more Asian representation in the World Cup after being elected the new Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president.

Hammam, a member of FIFA's executive committee, was named the new chief by AFC secretarygeneral Peter Velappan after an AFC executive committee meeting. "Mohammed bin Hammam has

been nominated unopposed to succeed Malaysia's Sultan Ahmad Shah," Velappan told reporters. Sultan Ahmad, who had been the president since 1994, announced down to hand the AFC leadership to a younger generation. "I will work for the benefit of Asian football. I will ensure there is trans-

parency in AFC and I thank the

last weekend that he was stepping

confederation for their support," Bin Hammam said. He told AFP that he would fight for more teams from Asia to be represented in the World Cup finals. "Asia deserves more," he said.

Asia currently has four automatic spots and one play-off chance. The AFC has been fighting for five automatic teams to represent Asia in the 2006 World Cup in Germany. In 1999, the AFC threatened to boycott the 2002 World Cup if foot-

ing 20 Criticize sharply 11 Cribbage DOWN score-1 Bolivia's 23 Confiscate keeper 27 Feedbag 17 Grouch capital Solution time: 28 mins. 34 Satan's 35 Snagged 37 Spacecraft

36 "GWTW" 10 Abby's estate 37 Actress Anderson 40 Kind of candle 42 Zoo attraction 43 French 44 Great 45 Trouble 46 Lay eyes 48 Eventual

CRYPTOQUIP GQW DPG FBACE AC TWM

DICMWUACE PTIHS GHC DQWC AS GHMMWCFB

Q W U

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: UNWILLING TO PART WITH ITS PEARL, THIS OYSTER IS A THOROUGHLY SELFISH SHELLFISH. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals D

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.

M P D C W M I C

compartaves ball governing body FIFA failed to 49 House ment 38 "Jane ---" resolve the row over berth allocasite 50 Conk out 39 Coach tion, but did not carry the threat Parsegh-

The call-up raised eyebrows as Ronaldo is being eased back into action by Inter and the match with Yugoslavia comes just three days after Inter's portential title-decider **HECTOR CUPER** Sunday against AS Roma at the San Cuper's former club Valencia of Cuper said: "If I was a member of the Brazilian technical staff I would be eager to see him (Ronaldo) play in the championship before the March 27 game. substitute CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

2 Proof of

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maybe 3 Pallid

4 Wilande

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milligra

(Abbr.)

5 Long-

bird

6 200

7 Sore

9 Bill's

8 Grads-