DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA V MAN UNITED

Fergie wants it for Keane

CHAMPS LEAGUE

Manager ir Alex Ferguson is urgino his players to do their utmost to get Manchester United to the Champions League final this season as a tribute to their injured captain Rov Keane.

The reigning English champions take on Deportivo La Coruna of Spain at Old Trafford on Wednesday in the second leg of their quarterfinal tie with United already 2-0 up.

Goals from David Beckham and Ruud van Nistelrooy sealed United's win in Spain last Tuesday but victory came at a high price.

Talisman Keane tore a hamstring in the first-leg triumph and is not expected to return to action until the end of the month.

That could rule the 30-year-old out of a potential 'Battle of Britain' semi-final clash against Liverpool who will meet rivals United in the last four should both Premiership teams win their respective quarter-final

The Anfield club take a 1-0 advantage into their second-leg away to German side Bayer Leverkusen

Meanwhile, there are doubts that tough-tackling midfielder Keane could even miss out on the final should United get there - just as he

Seventeen minutes into the second-leg of the semi-final against Juventus that year, Keane received a yellow card for a typically tenacious challenge, ruling him out of the

But the Republic of Ireland international refused to let disappointment get the better of him and played superbly to haul United back from the dead after they had trailed



JAVIER IRURETA

Keane scored with a thumping header to reduce the deficit and inspired his team to a famous 3-2 victory and a place in the final against Bayern Munich. United won the Barcelona showpiece 2-1 with two injury-time goals.

The loss of Keane has made Ferguson even more determined to lead United to the final at Hampden Park, Glasgow on May 15.

"There is now a cause for us to fight for - to get Keane to the final. Ferguson said.

"He got us there in the 1999 semi-final in Turin. It was his performance that brought us through that

"He knew he wouldn't be able to play in the final after 17 minutes when he got booked. He had to play for an hour and quarter knowing he wouldn't be in the final, and hopefully the players can do it for him this

Ferguson admitted Keane's absence was a bitter blow, but was confident his replacement, Nicky Butt, would not let the side down.

"Nobody can minimise the role Roy plays at this club," Ferguson

"He is the biggest influence on

CUP CORNER

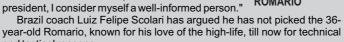
SPÖRT



President of the Brazilian football federation (CBF) Ricardo Teixeira has added his voice to many among the country's fans and media calling for the inclusion of controversial striker Romario in the national squad.

Teixeira said in 13 years at the nelm of the CBF he had never heard a complaint against the 1994 World Cup star, who missed the 1998 finals through injury and is desperate to play this time.

"In all these years, I have never heard of any problems with Romario at any level," Teixeira told Jovem Pan radio station. "And, as CBF



Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper however on Monday quoted Teixeira as saying he believed Romario had been left out because of his off-pitch

On Tuesday, meanwhile, Scolari picks the squad for the friendly match against Portugal in Lisbon on April 17.

VIVAS NOT

SIR ALEX FERGUSON

the team, no question. But players

can emerge from that. That is a point

I have been making about Nicky

"He was our star man in Spain on

Tuesday night because he had the

key role, but he kept Juan Carlos

race for the Premiership title, will

also be without the suspended Paul

United, behind Arsenal in the

England captain Beckham could

Keane's place in central midfield

Deportivo coach Javier Irureta

"It will be very difficult to over-

"We can go there and win by the

miss out if he fails to recover from an

will go to Juan Sebastian Veron,

assuming the Argentina interna-

believes the tie is far from over.

despite trailing United by two away

come this result, but there is no

reason why we should not believe

same scoreline. If we score an early

goal we will have a chance.

we can," he said

tional recovers from a heel injury.

ankle injury received in the first leg.

Valeron quiet. He was superb."

Scholes on Wednesday.

Butt. He could be our most impor-

tant player.

Inter Argentinean defender Nelson Vivas, who was ruled out of the forthcoming World Cup due to a sustained right knee injury, isn't keen to give in so lightly and cherishes rather daring hopes of traveling to the major football tournament, the French daily L'Equipe reported. The defender announced he expects to rehabilitate sooner than it's been announced and to make a trip to the World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

"I feel much better and I still have a faint chance of playing at the World Cup," stated the 32-yea-old defender. "I am well aware of the fact that if the pain returns, I won't have even one chance out of the 100 to participate in

Vivas performed at the World Cup 1998 in France, though he failed to enter the pitch in the quarterfinal tie against Holland.

The defender picked up a right knee ligament surgery during Inter's raining session. He underwent a surgery on March 2.

The player, who has won 35 caps so far, announced he would resume ogging on Tuesday.

Meanwhile the Argentinean has but a month left before the deadline fixed by FIFA. World governing body FIFA will publish on May 24 the 23strong squads for the 32 teams that will compete in this summer's World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan.

Baggio surprise!

"The doctors are very optimistic," rejoiced the player.

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA APAN

Former Italy international Roberto

Baggio could be in line for a shock

comeback for his club this season, and he might even be in the running

for Italy's World Cup squad, accord-

ing to Brescia president Gino

his knee ligaments in an Italian Cup

match against Parma in January

and doctors predicted he would be

out of action for the rest of the sea-

made a miraculous recovery.

"Baggio wants to play against Inter

(Milan) on Sunday or go on the

bench," Corioni was quoted as

saving in Tuesday's Corriere Dello

ago he had an operation on his

cruciate knee ligaments and nor-

mally it would take six to eight

months to return to the field. He is

"Think: two and a half months

Sport newspaper.

well. It is extraordinary.'

Brescia forward Baggio injured

REUTERS, Rome

Plotting a near miracle



REUTERS, La Coruna

Leading Deportivo Coruna players are appealing to their team's fighting spirit as they attempt to turn round a 2-0 first leg deficit against Manchester United in their Champions League quarter-final at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

"What is clear is that we have to score three goals if we want to get through to the next round and to do that we have to be focused all the time," Molina told the Deportivo website.

"We have to go for it without any fear or any doubt and compete for every ball as if it was the last one. If we do manage to get an early goa then that will give us an extra boost, but whatever happens we have to maintain the same spirit through-

Deportivo can take some comfort form the fact that they have been the only team to defeat the English side on their home turf in this season's Champions League, making the most of some lax defending to take a 3-2 win at Old Trafford in October.

The Galician club are also experienced at staging thrilling comebacks in Europe's elite club compe-

Last season the Galician side fought their way back from three goals behind after 55 minutes of a second phase group match against Paris St Germain to claim a miraculous 4-3 victory that helped take them through to the quarter-finals.

This season they also came from behind in both their first group stage



Deportivo la Coruna captain Mauro Silva talking to the press at la Coruna on

matches against United, and scored twice in the last four minutes to claim a 2-1 win at the Riazor. But Brazilian midfielder Mauro

Silva, who is a doubtful starter owing to a calf injury, is under no illusions as to the difficulty of the task facing

"The game is going to be very tough and we have to really push ourselves to the limit, with the mentality of playing and fighting in order

to get through the tie. 'We have 90 minutes still to play and although it is going to be difficult it is not impossible. We have already shown that we can win at Old Trafford and we know that Deportivo

the impressive form of leading striker Diego Tristan.

The Spanish international, who hit the headlines last week for his Beckham in the dving minutes of the first leg, scored a classy hat-trick as his side demolished Real Mallorca 5-0 on Saturday.

respond when it comes to important

Deportivo will also be boosted by

reckless challenge on David

If an early goal does not come Deportivo's way coach Javier Irureta can also look to the scoring skills of Dutch international Roy Makaay to further strengthen his

demanding. We got a point, but it's

not enough in our position, we need

We're a point ahead of Chelsea,

think, with a game in hand and I'm

sure they (Chelsea) would much

Shearer, standing at the back post,

then connected with a freekick but

Van der Sar came out fast to dou-

ble-fist Shearer's header to safety.

Minutes before the break

rather be in our position."

"We're still in pole position.

The paper said Baggio was unlikely to figure this weekend In 1994, he missed the crucial although he could be back in action in time for Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni to give him a glance before finalising Italy's World Cup

ROBERTO BAGGIO

season, in the last or the penultimate game, Baggio will be on the pitch and will be in the thoughts o Trapattoni," Corioni said.

Brescia have struggled in the absence of former European player of the year Baggio, who has scored eight goals this season, and they currently lie one place above the relegation zone on goal difference.

Baggio played in the last three World Cups, making his mark at the 1990 tournament on home soil with a fine individual strike against Czechoslovakia before leading the Azzurri to third place.

penalty in the shootout in the final against Brazil, and was a surprise inclusion in the 1998 World Cup squad. He did not make the Italian squad for Euro 2000.

Kirch collapse means sacrifice

for their star players to lower their wage demands after the collapse of the Bundesliga's main broadcaster And some club officials fear that

the fallout from the German media giant Kirch's core unit, which filed for nsolvency on Monday, could lead star players such as Bayern Munich goalkeeper Oliver Kahn and Baver Ballack to quit Germany in search of nigher salaries in England, Spain or

Kirch's woes are mainly linked to its loss-making pay-TV business, Premiere, which had secured the rights to the Bundesliga from the 2000-2001 season until 2003-2004 at a total cost of 1.53 billion euros.

Premiere, which is losing two million euros a day, is expected to continue showing matches until the end of the current season and the German Football League (DFL) in revenue in the short term.

nsists it has sufficient reserves to help any clubs who suffer a shortfall But the DFL is meeting on Thursday to discuss taking back control of its television rights and putting them back up for auction - the

Hoeness's opposite number at leading Bundesliga club Schalke 04, Rudi Assauer, warned that any new television deal is likely to be less

less money. Players who can't accept that will have to find another employer," Assauer said in Bild newspaper on Tuesday.
That is exactly what Rainer Calmund, the general manager of

Leverkusen, fears "If the contract fetches 30 percent less, then our stars will go. (Oliver) Kahn could earn millions more in

Franz Beckenbauer, the all-time great defender and now Bavern Munich president, said German clubs should use the Kirch crisis to get its house in order.

"We have a great chance to get a grip on the explosion of million-euro salaries." he told Bild.

worldwide following mean that they are less reliant on television income than smaller Bundesliga clubs such as SC Freiburg. A total of 60.7 percent of

Freiburg's income comes from television rights, according to figures in Der Spiegel magazine. The corresponding figure for Bayern is just 13.9 percent.

REAL MADRID v BAYERN MUNICH

Another classic on the cards

CHAMPS LEAGUE

Few rivalries in football can match the intensity of a Real Madrid v Barcelona fixture - but Furopean Champions League clashes between the eight-times kings of Europe and German champions Bayern Munich are starting to come a close second.

Real and Bayern have rumbled in the knock-out stages of Europe's biggest football stage for the last three seasons, and Real are now faced with trying to claw back a 2-1 deficit in their quarter-final second leg at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Wednesday.

The Spanish giants seemed to have the first leg in their grasp, after an early goal from their Cameroonian international Geremi Ndijtap, but succumbed to two goals in the last eight minutes from Stefan Effenberg and Claudio Pizzaro.

"A 1-0 victory in the last minute would suit us just fine." said Real's World Player of the Year Luis Figo on Monday.

The Portuguese international played 15 minutes in Real's 3-1 victory over fellow Madrilenos Rayo Vallecano on Saturday and could start his first match in over a month against Bayern after being out of action with an ankle injury. And Figo will be as keen as any

Bayaria towards the Spanish capital every since last Tuesday's encoun-"We are going to humiliate Madrid," proclaimed Bayern director and former German international Uli

of his team to silence the barrage of

abuse that has been flying from

Hoeness, the day after the first leg. The latest fusillade came on Sunday when Effenberg declared, "We will walk all over Madrid".

"When Bayern are under pressure, we start to play better. Maybe we need that pressure now to win the Champions League. If we win, we'll secure our place here for the next season.

"Real will be satisfied with only one goal difference," taunted the Bayern captain whilst talking to reporters. "That's why we must play much in attacks and score.



Those remarks have been widely reported in Spain, but Real players have been advised by their chief executive Jorge Valdano to keep cool, at least publicly

"We will do our talking on the field," retorted Real's world record signing Zinedine Zidane on However, it is well known the

Spanish league leaders are privately seething about the Germans'

Antagonism between Real and Bayern goes back more than a decade to the fractious 1987 European Cup semi-final first leg, in which Real crashed 4-1 and ended the game with nine men.

Hoeness, then Bayern's manager, and Real's current coach Vicente Del Bosque, who was in the dug-out that night as an assistant coach, famously almost came to blows on the sideline and had to be separated by officials.

On Wednesday, Del Bosque is expected to send his first choice troops into battle. If Figo starts then first-leg goalscorer Ndijtap is likely to be back on the bench.

Spain striker Fernando Morientes, who has scored 17 league goals this season, is also expected to be in the starting line up. Central defender Francisco Pavon could make an appearance after a recent back strain recovery. Bayern meanwhile are hoping

midfielder Mehmet Schol will be fit after recent hamstring problems which kept him out of the first leg. If unavailable, Schol's place will go to either of his fellow German internationals, Carsten Jancker or



STEFAN EFFENBERG

Further motivation to qualify, in what has proved to be a mediocre domestic season for Bayern, will come from necessity if the Germans are to guarantee their ticket for next

"I have told the players we have to win this match in order to have a good chance of playing in next season's Champions League," said coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, who team lie fourth in the league and have only a slim mathematical chance of retain-

There will also be some observers at Wednesday's match without a vested interest in the outcome

UEFA will be watching closely to see whether Real have managed to curb the activities of their notorious Ultra Sur supporters, a right-wing group which usually manages to be on its worst behaviour when there is German opposition.

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez has made significant strides towards controlling them within the Bernabeu, and is aware that fines and other sanctions are imminent if displays of Nazi symbols and fascist chants - not an uncommon sight behind the Bernabeu's south goal -

England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson has asked for a ticket, presumably to have a final look at both Real's Steve McManaman and Bayern's Owen Hargreaves prior to England's match against Paraguay on April 17, the last warm-up game before Eriksson names his squad for the World Cup finals.

Sao Paulo, **Flamengo** after Ronaldo?

Agents for Brazilian star Ronaldo are negotiating his return from Italy to play club football in Brazil, a television station has reported.

TV Globo said that three Brazilian sides were interested in taking on the oft-injured Inter Milan forward - Palmeiras and Sao Paulo, both of Sao Paulo, and Flamengo of Rio de Janeiro

The Brazilian has only just returned from his latest injury to a thigh which had sidelined him since December 23 Ronaldo played for the Brazil

national side for the first time in over two years at the end of March, lasting the first 45 minutes in the 1-0 friendly win over Yugoslavia. He also came on for 20 min-

utes in last Thursday's UEFA Cup semi-final between Inter and Feyenoord in Milan which the Dutch side won 1-0. Injury permitting, Ronaldo

looks set to be in the Brazilian squad for this summer's World Cup finals and any club deal would likely have to wait until after

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Carlos counts on technique



REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid defender Roberto Carlos believes that his side's technical skill will help secure a rare victory over Bayern Munich in their Champions League quarter-final at the Bernabeu on Wednesday.

"Technically we are the better team, and if we play our usual style of football we will gain a good result," the Brazilian international was quoted as saying in sports daily

But Roberto Carlos admitted that despite his claims of technical superiority the Spanish side would not find it easy to turn around a 2-1 first leg deficit against the reigning European champions. "Bayern defend with nine men

behind the ball and attack quickly on the break. We will have to be very alert because the slightest mistake could prove fatal. We also know that we will have to run and fight for every ball." Real have an abysmal record against the German giants, losing

on six of the last seven occasions

they have met in the last three

By Eugene Sheffer

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ROBERTO CARLOS The only victory for the Spaniards came in May 2000 when

they won 2-0 at the Bernabeu on their way to their eighth European title and the Brazilian defender is hoping for a repetition this year. "It is very important for the club to win the European Cup in its cente-

now is the time for us to defeat them. and show how we have earned our reputation in Europe. "The Bernabeu will be packed

nary season. We lost in Munich and

with 80,000 people cheering us on and we are really up for this game. he said on Tuesday.

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE THINKING OF BUILDING A KITE, IT MIGHT BE A SMART IDEA TO USE FLYPAPER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals S 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.

Premiership Shearer denied record tant crowd and they're very

Football

Champions League aspirants Newcastle shared the honours with visitors Fulham after an exciting 1-1 draw that failed to produce a 200th Premiership goal for Magpies captain Alan Shearer on Monday.

Newcastle, who were booed off the pitch by some of the more demanding fans of St James' Park, leapfrogged Chelsea into fourth in the table and the last qualifying spot for the Champions League while Fulham stay in 16th place. Nippy Newcastle forward Kieron

Dyer opened the scoring for the hosts, grabbing only his second goal of the season after he capitalised on some defensive shenanigans in the 21st minute A determined Fulham, on an

unenvious run of seven defeats from their past eight games, hit

back through feisty Frenchman Louis Saha when he deflected a goal-bound shot in the 76th minute.

A typically-stoic Shearer admitted his record-setting was the last thing on his mind, but despite a spirited performance from the hosts he criticised the boo boys who unjustifiably jeered at the final

"I would much rather have won the game," Shearer admitted to ITV before sending out a reminder of Newcastle's still favourable posi-

"It's not nice. They're an expec-

Premiership's top six English Premiership table after Monday's match between Newcastle and Fulham (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points)

Arsenal	33	21	9	3	68	33	72
Man Utd	34	22	4	8	83	44	70
Liverpool	33	20	8	5	55	26	68
Newcastle	33	18	7	8	62	44	61
Chelsea 60	34	16	12	6	63	3	2
Leeds	34	15	12	7	50	36	57

"It's true that at the end of the

Football

AFP, Berlin

German football clubs have called KirchMedia.

general manager of reigning European champions Bayern Munich, Uli Hoeness, last week expressed interest in state broad"Clubs and players must count on

Bundesliga leaders Bayer

Spain," he told German television.

However, Bayern's sheer size and

Klaus Stabach, the general manager of another Bundesliga minnow, Energie Cottbus, said: "Without television money we just can't afford

AFP, Rio de Janeiro