

## Final preview

## Feyenoord for pride, Dortmund double



AFP, Rotterdam

Pierre van Hooijdonk and Feyenoord will be fighting for Dutch footballing pride when they face German champions Borussia Dortmund in the UEFA Cup final here Wednesday.

With Holland's national team condemned to a summer on the sidelines after failing to qualify for the World Cup, it is up to Feyenoord to help put a smile back on the face of Dutch football.

Coach Bart Van Marwijk has tried hard to boost the competition's glamour, although it is largely seen as a poor relation to the prestigious Champions League.

While nothing could truly make up for Holland's bitterly disappointing World Cup flop, van Hooijdonk believes a Feyenoord victory on their home turf would lift spirits in the low country.

"We have the privilege of playing the final in our own De Kuip stadium," van Hooijdonk said.

"We can't disappoint our supporters or other football fans throughout the country. We have a unique occasion to create club history."

Coach van Marwijk insisted Feyenoord's appearance in the final was deserved and that the tournament was just as important as ever. "The UEFA Cup should not be devalued and neither should our performances this season," he said.

"We deserved our place in the final and it was certainly not down to luck. Like us, Dortmund had originally been in the Champions League and are high-calibre opponents."

For Feyenoord's internationals van Hooijdonk, Kees Van Wonderen, Patrick Paauwe and Paul Bosvelt, it will be their last chance to shine in a major footballing event this season.

## Premiership preview

## Gunners for a dream outing

## Football

AFP/REUTERS, Manchester

Arsenal suffered a blow ahead of their Premiership title deciding clash with defending champions Manchester United on Tuesday when leading scorer Thierry Henry was ruled out of the match with a knee injury.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger is set to play Henry's fellow French international Sylvain Wiltord up front alongside Dutch star Dennis Bergkamp as Arsenal bid to get at least a draw which will ensure they win the title.

According to Wenger, Henry's injury is not a major worry and he should be back for their last match of the season against Everton on Saturday.

Arsenal, who completed the first-half of the double on Saturday when they beat Chelsea 2-0 in the FA Cup final, lead United by five points with two matches remaining.

Wenger said he was not too disappointed by Henry's absence as the team had always pulled together to make up for players who had been suspended or were injured.

"Thierry is out as he has a small knee problem. He should be all right for Saturday though," Wenger said.

"Wiltord will play up front at Old Trafford.

"In an ideal world, you want everyone there but this season more than any other is the season of the squad here.

"There is a strong togetherness and mental determination. Every time we have had players out, we have sorted the problem out together," added the Frenchman.

Arsenal can double the agony for Manchester United on Wednesday when they attempt to seal the Premiership League title four days after their FA Cup triumph.

Should they do so at the home of the current champions, it will be the bitterest of pills for United manager Alex Ferguson to swallow.

The equation is simple: United have to win, otherwise the title is Arsenal's. Even if Arsene Wenger's side do get beaten on Wednesday, they will still be crowned champions if

Victory would give Feyenoord their third continental title following victories in 1970 in the European Cup and the 1974 UEFA Cup.

Van Marwijk's men have finished third in the Dutch league to earn Champions League football next season which will perhaps lessen the pressure before the fixture.

## UEFA Cup final in doubt

AFP, Rotterdam

Rotterdam city officials were meeting Tuesday to discuss whether or not to request a postponement of Wednesday's UEFA Cup football final following the assassination of far-right politician Pim Fortuyn, the ANP news agency said.

A final decision on whether to request a postponement from European governing body UEFA, would be taken by the mayor Iv Opostelen later in the day, the agency said.

Fortuyn lived in Rotterdam and it was in the industrial port city in March that he first made his mark by winning 17 out of 45 council seats in municipal elections.

The UEFA Cup final is between Rotterdam side Feyenoord and newly-crowned German champions Borussia Dortmund.

Fortuyn was shot and killed by an unidentified gunman in Hilversum on Monday, nine days before national elections in which his anti-immigrant party was set to make strong showing.

Feyenoord players said they were determined to go ahead with the match despite the shock waves emanating from the assassination.

"We are all in shock," said star striker Pierre Van Hooijdonk. "It's inconceivable that a politician can be assassinated in the Netherlands. But we have to go ahead with the final."

The trainer of the Dutch side, Bert van Marwijk said that if it was up to him, the game would be called off.

"But UEFA have decided to play the game and we will do so even if the conditions are far from ideal," he added.

The bedrock of the team is its defence built around van Wonderen and Paauwe with van Hooijdonk the main threat to Jens Lehmann in Borussia's goal.

Van Hooijdonk, formerly of Celtic and Nottingham Forest, is set to play alongside former Newcastle frontman Jon Dahl Tomasson, recently signed by AC Milan for next season and Denmark's consistent marksman at international level.

Feyenoord will be without suspended Australian fullback Bret Emerton with Ghana's Christian Gyam likely to take his place.

Other worries for van Marwijk include the back injury of striker Robin van Persie who will have a late fitness test with Brazilian Leonardo on standby.

Polish defender Tomasz Rzasa, who had an injury to his face after Sunday's 0-0 draw at Willem II Tilburg, is likely to be back available for selection.

Many of the players should be well-rested with a large number of first teamers not appearing in that final league game, including keeper Edwin Zoetebier, defenders van Wonderen and Paauwe, strikers Tomasson and van Hooijdonk. Club captain Bosvelt only played one half.

Dortmund's Marcio Amoroso, giant Czech Jan Koller and the creative prowess behind them of Czech midfield maestro Tomas Rosicky will be a handful for Feyenoord's backline.

Their own defence hardly lacks experience with 1990 World Cup winners Jurgen Kohler and Stefan Reuter available and it is set to be 36-year-old Kohler's last match as a professional.

Dortmund however will be without 21-year-old Germany international defender Christoph Metzelder, who is suspended, as well as injured strikers Heiko Herrlich and Guseppe Reina.

Unfortunately for coach Matthias Sammer, defender Sebastian Kehil is ineligible after being recruited during the season from SC Freiburg with whom he played in this competition.

Both 21-year-old Metzelder and Kehil, 22, made up for their final omission by being picked in Germany's World Cup squad which was announced on Monday.

show, however, on a manager reputed to be the master of pre-match mind games.

Media reports suggest Ferguson lost his rag on Monday when various reporters were slung out of United's training ground with some choice words from the prickly Old Trafford boss ringing in their ears.

Arsenal's last visit to Old Trafford ended in a 6-1 defeat last February, a defeat that provoked Wenger into a similarly vitriolic attack on his squad, according to midfielder Ray Parlour.

But Arsenal have come a long way in 15 months and they are bubbling clinching the FA Cup.

Incredibly, Arsenal have not lost an away match all season and if they avoid defeat at Old Trafford, they will have completed their scheduled 19 away games in the league unbeaten, a unique feat in the modern era in England.

Should Arsenal complete a second double in five seasons under Wenger -- matching United's record of three -- they will tilt the balance of power in English football decisively back in London's favour.

They have won their last 11 Premier League games -- another record -- and have also triumphed in three of their last four games against United.

In talismanic Fredrik Ljungberg, whose delightful goal in the Cup final against Chelsea embellished a scoring streak of six in his last five league games, they have a player who has a habit of netting against the Old Trafford side.

The Swede is, nonetheless, preaching caution before Wednesday's game.

"We know that United are a really tough team, especially at Old Trafford, so we have to be really careful," Ljungberg said.

As if they didn't have motivation enough for Wednesday, it could also possibly be captain Tony Adams' last trip to Old Trafford before retiring.

Wenger exudes all the purpose of a man who knows he is on a roll with his simple rallying cry for the United after the Chelsea triumph.

"We want to show how strong we are," the Frenchman said.

There is indeed a great deal at stake at Old Trafford for both sides on Wednesday. But either way it seems Arsenal cannot lose.



Roger Lemerre, the French national coach arrives at his hotel in Tignes in the French Alps on May 6, 2002. The French team will train in the area until May 10.

## Lemerre's plans clear



REUTERS, Paris

France's squad of 23 for the World Cup has been revealed as manager Roger Lemerre called 13 more players to a training camp next week at France's soccer national centre at Clairefontaine.

The secretive Lemerre stopped short of officially announcing the squad which will travel to South Korea and Japan at the end of the month, but the 13 have been added to eight players currently preparing at altitude in the French Alps.

The full list of 23 will be completed by Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane and Claude Makelele, both certain to make it to the World Cup.

Both are on club duty with Real, who will meet Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League final.

The list of 23 had circulated in the French media for over a week after players who had been told by Lemerre they were not picked had talked to the media.

Liverpool striker Nicolas Anelka will miss the World Cup for the second time after being a last minute drop-out in 1998.

He has been replaced by in-form AJ Auxerre striker Djibril Cisse, the leading scorer in the French First Division this season with 22 goals.

## Chemical attack on Russia's base



AFP, Tokyo

The pitch at Russia's World Cup training camp in Japan has been vandalised with a suspected chemical agent just three and a half weeks before the tournament kicks off, officials said Tuesday.

Police said they had no indication as to who might have carried out the attack but there was immediate speculation that it might have been the work of ultra-nationalists protesting over Russia's occupation of disputed islands north of Japan.

Another possibility is that the attack was carried out by misguided Japanese fans in an attempt to intimidate the Russian players.

Groundsmen at the National Training Center Shimizu noticed on Saturday that patches of the center's multi-purpose turf pitch had started to turn brown.

By Monday morning, yellowish, brown lines and spots of dead grass were clearly visible on the pitch, said Yoshitomi Totsuka, senior manager of the center in Shimizu city, about 140 kilometers (87 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

One line of dead grass extended for more than 150 meters (495 feet), and others zigzagged all over the field, he said.

"The police and we ourselves are investigating the nature of the suspected chemical agent," Totsuka said.

Totsuka said the center will plant new grass in the affected areas, adding that the field should be repaired before May 26, when the Russian team is scheduled to start training at the center.

The turf was surrounded by a 1.5-meter-tall (five-foot-tall) fence. But people were able to enter the area

Anelka being even more reluctant to talk to the press than Lemerre, news that he had been overlooked has not yet been confirmed officially.

Fulham striker Steve Marlet, injured Olympiakos midfielder Christian Karembou, whose place goes to Bayern's Willy Sagnol, and Olympique Lyon playmaker Eric Carriere were the other players left out.

## SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Fabien Barthez (Manchester United), Gregory Coupet (Olympique Lyon), Ulrich Rame (Girondins Bordeaux)

**Defenders:** Vincent Candela (Roma), Philippe Christaval (Barcelona), Marcel Desailly (Chelsea), Christophe Dugary (Girondins Bordeaux), Franck Leboeuf (Olympique Marseille), Bixente Lizarazu (Bayern Munich), Willy Sagnol (Bayern Munich), Mikael Silvestre (Manchester United), Lilian Thuram (Juventus)

**Midfielders:** Alain Boghossian (Parma), Claude Makelele (Real Madrid), Johan Micoud (Parma), Emmanuel Petit (Chelsea), Patrick Vieira (Arsenal), Zinedine Zidane (Real Madrid)

**Strikers:** Djibril Cisse (AJ Auxerre), Thierry Djorkaeff (Bolton Wanderers), Youri Henry (Arsenal), David Trezeguet (Juventus), Sylvain Wiltord (Arsenal)

freely of a park adjacent to the facility, Totsuka said.

A spokesman for Shimizu police said they had no leads in the investigation.

"We are starting with interviews of nearby residents and we are collecting as much information as possible," he said.

"At this point, we are yet to determine who did it and for what motive," he said.

Japanese right-wingers hold regular demonstrations to demand Russia return four islands at the southern end of the Kuril chain in the Pacific, which were occupied by Soviet troops in the final days of World War Two.

Japan claims sovereignty over the islands and refuses to sign a treaty formally ending hostilities until Moscow returns them.

Japan's World Cup organising committee, JAWOC, made no comment, but released a notice sent on Monday to liaison officers at all authorised team base camps in the wake of the Shimizu incident ordering increased security.

"We are sending this report to all of you in charge of campsites, kindly requesting that you establish the best possible preparations for receiving national teams and give consideration to security measures intended for the period leading up to the competition as well," the notice said.

"Any malicious obstruction of camp training cannot be condoned but there is no guarantee that it would never happen in the future."

Japan will play Russia in their final group match on June 9 in Yokohama, south of Tokyo. Group H also includes Belgium and Tunisia.

The Russians are widely seen as the strongest team in group H and the biggest threat to Japan's chances of progressing to the second round.

## Deisler gets Voeller's nod



REUTERS, Berlin

Germany coach Rudi Voeller picked Sebastian Deisler in the 23-man World Cup squad he announced on Monday despite doubts about the inspirational midfielder's fitness.

Deisler, who has hardly played since last October, returned to action with his Hertha Berlin club on Saturday.

The gifted 22-year-old, who will play for Bayern Munich next season, had just recovered from knee surgery when he tore a thigh muscle in training last month.

Voeller also called up Hertha Berlin defender Marko Rehmer, who is currently sidelined with an ankle injury, in a squad with no major surprises for the Korea/Japan finals starting in 25 days' time.

Bayern Munich midfielder Mehmet Scholl pulled out last month because he was not fully fit while Bayer Leverkusen central defender Jens Nowotny was ruled out with a knee injury sustained in last week's 1-1 draw with Manchester United that sent his team through to the European Champions League final.

"The fact that Mehmet Scholl and Jens Nowotny pulled out does not change our aim, which is to reach the knock-out stage, hopefully by winning our group," said Voeller, whose team meet Cameroon, Ireland and Saudi Arabia in group E.

"I believe in this team," he added. "With the right spirit we can go very far."

There were 14 survivors from the side who made a shock first-round exit from Euro 2000 in Germany's worst ever performance at a major tournament.

## McCarthy's faith in the tried and trusted

AFP, Dublin

Republic of Ireland coach Mick McCarthy opted for experience in naming his World Cup final squad on Tuesday with Manchester United skipper Roy Keane as expected chosen to captain the 23-man party.

"This is the most enjoyable squad I have ever had to name," said McCarthy.

"But there are always a couple of players you leave out who you have to tell, and it is a disappointment having to do that," added McCarthy, who revealed he had told them to remain on standby should there be any injuries.

Among several veterans named by McCarthy were two players who were with him in Italy, Niall Quinn and Steve Staunton with both likely to be playing their last matches for the national team.

With 188 caps between them, both are heading into their third World Cup for Ireland and if Staunton plays four games in Japan and South Korea - which would mean Ireland qualify for the knock-out stages - he will become his country's first international to win 100 caps.

The Irish open their campaign against African champions Cameroon in what is a potential runners-up spot clash in Group E in Niigata on June 1, Germany on June 5 in Ibaraki and group outsiders Saudi Arabia in Yokohama on June 11.

## SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Shay Given (Newcastle), Dean Kiely (Charlton), Alan Kelly (Blackburn)

**Defenders:** Steve Staunton (Aston Villa), Steve Finnan (Fulham), Kenny Cunningham (Wimbledon), Gary Breen (Coventry), Ian Harte (Leeds), Gary Kelly (Leeds), Richard Dunne (Manchester City), Andy O'Brien (Newcastle)

**Midfielders:** Jason McAteer (Sunderland), Roy Keane (Manchester United), Mark Kinsella (Charlton), Matt Holland (Ipswich), Kevin Kilbane (Sunderland), Mark Kennedy (Wolves), Lee Carsley (Everton)

**Forwards:** Robbie Keane (Leeds), Niall Quinn (Sunderland), Clinton Morrison (Crystal Palace), Damien Duff (Blackburn), David Connolly (Wimbledon)

## Sergi to miss World Cup

INTERNET

Spain full back Sergi will miss the World Cup after opting to undergo surgery on his injured left ankle.

The 30-year-old defender, who has played 56 times for Spain, aggravated the injury playing for Barcelona in last week's Champions League semi-final second leg against Real Madrid.

The club doctor Ricard Pruna said the player had accepted club advice to have surgery.

"He told us on Saturday that he agreed it was the best solution," Dr Pruna told reporters on Monday.

"The surgery means he will miss the World Cup but it guarantees he will be back after two months."

Several hopefuls will be left behind, among them Werder Bremen's versatile defender Frank Baumann and midfielder Lars Ricken from newly-crowned German champions Borussia Dortmund.

"It was not easy at all to have to call some players and tell them they were not in the squad," said Voeller. Bayern Munich striker Carsten

## SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Oliver Kahn (Bayern Munich), Jens Lehmann (Borussia Dortmund), Hans-Joerg Butt (Bayer Leverkusen)

**Defenders:** Thomas Linke (Bayern Munich), Christian Woerns, Sebastian Kehil, Christoph Metzelder, Joerg Heinrich (all Borussia Dortmund), Marko Rehmer (Hertha Berlin), Christian Ziege (Tottenham Hotspur)

**Midfielders:** Michael Ballack, Carsten Ramelew, Bernd Schneider (all Bayer Leverkusen), Sebastian Deisler (Hertha Berlin), Torsten Frings (Werder Bremen), Jens Jeremies (Bayern Munich), Dietmar Hamann (Liverpool)

**Strikers:** Gerald Asamoah (Schalke 04), Oliver Bierhoff (Monaco), Oliver Neuville (Bayer Leverkusen), Carsten Jancker (Kaiserslautern), Marco Bode (Werder Bremen)

**On standby:** Frank Rost (goalkeeper, Werder Bremen), Frank Baumann (defender, Werder Bremen), Ingo Hertzsch (defender, Hamburg SV), Stefan Beinlich (midfielder, Hertha Berlin), Joerg Boehme (midfielder, Schalke 04), Lars Ricken (midfielder, Borussia Dortmund), Thomas Brdaric (striker, Bayer Leverkusen), Martin Max (striker, TSV 1860 Munich)

## Caniggia, Batistuta confirmed



REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Veteran striker Claudio Caniggia has been confirmed as a member of Argentina's World Cup squad provided he recovers fully from the injury he suffered in the Scottish Cup final on Saturday.

The 35-year-old Caniggia, who has played in two World Cups but missed the 1998 tournament in France, was among 12 players named by coach Marcelo Bielsa to begin training from Tuesday in Rome for the Korea/Japan finals that begin on May 31.

Caniggia injured his knee early in the Cup final his side Rangers won 3-2 against Old Firm rivals Celtic in Glasgow and feared for the worst at first. His progress will be closely monitored in Rome.

Bielsa told a news conference before leaving for Rome where Argentina will begin their World Cup countdown, that all 12 would be in his 23-man squad for the finals, where they face Nigeria, England and Sweden in group F, injuries permitting.

Top strikers Gabriel Batistuta and Hernan Crespo were both named among an Italian-based contingent whose club commitments have concluded.

The exception from Italy is midfielder Matias Almeyda whose club Parma play the second leg of the Italian Cup final against Juventus this weekend.

There was no room for Bologna striker Julio Cruz, who scored in the 1-1 draw against Wales in Cardiff in February.

Cruz is unlikely to make it even if Caniggia fails to regain full fitness with Barcelona's Javier Saviola waiting in the wings.

Argentina, favourites to win their third World Cup, will congregate at Lazio's training facilities and travel to Japan once the squad is complete.

In other matters, Bielsa said that he had never thought of resigning due to the Argentina Football Association's difficulties in paying him.

"The thought of not going to the World Cup never crossed my mind," Bielsa said on Monday.

"Any difficulties I may have with my employers are typical of the problems today in Argentina. But I think it's fair to demand what we agreed, I'm not ashamed of this."

"Collective interests come before individual ones. That's the way I behave."

He also admitted that his team were among the favourites. "Argentina is in the elite at the World Cup, where you can also find France, Spain, Brazil, Germany Italy, an African team such as Cameroon, and England," he said.

"We have the material that our obligations demand from us, but we have to show why we are in the favourites' position."

Bielsa is expected to name his full squad just before the May 21 deadline.

The only two Argentine-based players in the squad, midfielders Ariel Ortega and Claudio Husain of

Jancker was selected despite the fact that he has not scored a goal in the Bundesliga this season. TSV 1860 Munich's Martin Max, joint top scorer in the German First Division with 18 goals, was left out because he has virtually no international experience.

"That was a particularly difficult decision to make because Max's goals obviously spoke for him, but I am convinced Jancker has the quality to be in the group," said Voeller.

Dortmund, who play Feyenoord in the UEFA Cup final in Rotterdam on Wednesday, and Bundesliga runners-up Bayer Leverkusen have five players each in the squad with only four from Bayern Munich.

Bayern's Oliver Kahn, the German captain, is naturally the number one goalkeeper with Dortmund's Jens Lehmann and Leverkusen's Hans-Joerg Butt also on the list.

The most capped player in the group is Tottenham Hotspur wing-back Christian Ziege, who has appeared 64 times for Germany.

The oldest is Monaco striker and former Germany captain Oliver Bierhoff, 34, while the youngest are Deisler and Dortmund defenders Sebastian Kehil and Christoph Metzelder, all 22.

Elegant Leverkusen midfielder Michael Ballack, who played a key role in his side's impressive domestic and European run as well as in Germany's qualifying campaign, is arguably the most valued player in Voeller's squad.

Eight players, among them Baumann, Ricken and Max, are on standby in case anybody gets injured before the triple world champions fly out to their base in Japan on May 22.

league leaders River Plate, travelled with Bielsa and his coaching staff.

Boca Juniors playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme has been left behind, although this could be because his team face a Libertadores Cup quarter-final tie on Wednesday.

Bielsa has purposely not named a number of certainties, including Manchester United's Juan Sebastian Veron, because they still have end-of-season club commitments.

Bayer Leverkusen defender Diego Placente and Real Madrid midfielder Santiago Solari, if picked, will be the last to link with the squad after in the Champions League final in Glasgow on May 15.

Left wing-back Juan Pablo Sorin, who scored in last month's 1-0 win over Germany in Stuttgart, will be another late arrival after club commitments with Cruzeiro in Brazil.

With the Spanish league season still not over, also missing are Roberto Ayala, Pablo Aimar and Kily Gonzalez of newly-crowned champions Valencia and three Spain-based goalkeepers -- German Burgos of promoted Atletico Madrid, Barcelona's Roberto Bonano and Pablo Cavallero of Celta Vigo.

Bielsa said he would also wait until the last possible minute to see if defender Nelson Vivas, who underwent a knee operation at the start of March, would recover in time.

## SQUAD

**Defenders:** Jose Chamot (AC Milan), Mauricio Pochettino (Paris St Germain), Walter Samuel (AS Roma)

**Midfielders:** Diego Simeone (Lazio), Javier Zanetti (Inter Milan), Marcelo Gallardo (Monaco), Ariel Ortega (River Plate), Claudio Husain (River Plate)

**Forwards:</**