Fowler denies 'Lions' Ortega to get



A Robbie Fowler header on the stroke of full time earned England a 2-2 draw with Cameroon here on Sunday but it was another unconvincing display from Sven Goran Eriksson's injury-hit squad.

A 58th free-kick from Real Madrid's Fotso Geremi looked set to earn Cameroon a deserved victory after Darius Vassell had cancelled out a Samuel Eto'o's opener for the African and Olympic champions.

With both sides making wholescale changes, the match lost some of its intensity in the second half but Cameroon did enough in the first period to suggest they could be on track to repeat their 1990 exploits, when the Indomitable Lions became the first African side to reach the World Cup quarter-

For England, another disappointing display underlined how desper-

Chelsea striker Jesper Gronkiaer

scored a goal and set up another as

Denmark beat African outsiders

McCarthy sent Keane home on

Thursday after the two clashed in

front of the rest of the squad at a

team meeting.

The midfielder also claimed

McCarthy had accused him of

faking an injury before the World

Cup playoff against Iran and said

the coach had provoked him into his

another World Cup and I'm sacrific-

ing that dream because of some-

thing I believed in," he was quoted

Brazil v Cameroon!

"But if they get to the final, they will

have a high likelihood of taking the

trophy."
A third fortune teller, Umawadee

Argentina and Brazil will fare well,

but ultimately France will win

because they drew the sun card,"

said Umawadee, who is known as

Such predictions have become

almost routine in Thailand, where

highly superstitious culture which

for centuries has relied heavily on

the views of fortune-tellers and

Thai fortune tellers are routinely

consulted on everything from

romance, work and family issues to

who will win the Miss Universe

shock predictions for the World Cup,

gle through to the second round only

to be knocked out by Cup holders

Thai fans, he displayed some diplo-

matic tact by predicting co-hosts

South Korea and Japan would both

by expecting another disappointing

World Cup for Spain, which has

traditionally wilted during the tour-

performances as they will lose all

three of their first-round matches, he

progress to the second round.

None of the seers made any

Bancha said England will strug-

While that would not sit well with

Bancha hardly went out on a limb

China will suffer the worst of Cup

"Italy, France, Germany,

"I waited eight years to play in

Keane loves

FROM PAGE 16

I am guilty."

outburst.

as saying.

FROM PAGE 16

Siriaksorn, disagreed.

Thailand's "fortune angel.

other mystics.

contest.

nament.

KOREA JAPAN

Jesper powers

squad are without the passing skills of Steven Gerrard and David

Gerrard is missing the World Cup with a groin injury while Beckham, recovering from a broken foot, is looking increasingly doubtful for England's opening match against Sweden on June 2.

Cameroon had gone ahead in the 5th minute after stand-in goalkeeper Nigel Martyn misjudged the flight of Pierre Wome's cross from the left.

Martyn, standing-in for David Seaman who was rested as he tries to shake off a groin strain, could only watch in horror as the ball floated over his head and bounced back off the far post to leave Eto'o with an easy finish from six yards

England got back on level terms seven minutes later after some combative tackling by Michael Owen to win the ball 40 yards out. The Liverpool striker fed Paul Scholes who threaded a fine pass between Cameroon's centrebacks for Vassell to slot home

But it was Cameroon who domi-

Olympic champions switching the ball impressively as they sought to create openings for the lively Patrick Mboma and Eto'o up front.

Mboma should have put the Africans ahead in the 28th minute after good work by Geremi down the right. Mboma got in front of Rio Ferdinand to meet the cross but could only head straight into the arms of Martyn.

Geremi also went close, grazing the top of the cross bar from a freekick after Owen Hargreaves pulled down Eto'o on the edge of the area a minute before half-time.

The Real Madrid wingback finally got the reward for his efforts in the 58th minute after another reckless England tackle just outside the area. Geremi lifted his free kick over the wall and in off the post.

Second-half substitutes Fowler and Teddy Sheringham gave the England forward line a more imaginative look. But it was Cameroon again who looked the more likely to score in the latter stages before Fowler produced his late, late show to save England blushes



But Tunisia hit back with ES the World Cup.'

> "We've been tired after a long trip and jet lag, but we played very well against such a good team like Denmark today. Although we missed a few goals, we produced some scoring chances. We are getting better and better," added

Korea for the World Cup first round with defending champions France, Senegal and Uruguay.

Tunisia, who have yet to win a match against a national team this year, are to battle co-hosts Japan, Belgium and Russia.

Olsen sidelined midfielder

the honour

conference.

Juniors in 1996.

with Japan.

drugs offences as a player.

said: "Maradona deserves respect."

wear the 10 was not serious.

Argentina's original list.

Ventura said Blatter's sugges-

"Blatter does not have the

"It's a funny situation because

Argentina's number 10 will be able

to use his hands this time," joked

Blatter at the weekend, in reference

to Maradona's notorious 'hand-of-

God' goal against England at the 1986 World Cup.

American sports it has never caught

on in soccer, although Maradona's

former Italian club Napoli said

recently they would not use the

number 10 shirt again as a mark of

his country to World Cup glory in

1986 and the final in 1990 but was

thrown out of the 1994 finals after

testing positive for a cocktail of

The explosive Argentine guided

respect for Maradona.

While retiring shirts is common in

authority to decide which player

uses which number. That's down to

the Argentine Football Association, Ortega was number 23 in



REUTERS, Naraha

Midfielder Ariel Ortega will wear Argentina's number 10 at the World Cup finals after FIFA barred them from retiring the shirt in honour of former captain Diego Maradona.

But Diego Simeone, Argentina's most capped international who played alongside Maradona in the 1994 finals in the United States, said his country should protest against FIFA's ruling.

A revised list was distributed by Argentina's press officer Coco Ventura on Monday with Ortega at number 10 and the number 23 going to third-choice goalkeeper Roberto Bonano

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said



ARIEL ORTEGA

on Sunday that world soccer's governing body would not allow Argentina to dispense with the number and outlawed their first squad list, which went from one to 24 without a number 10. "It's not right that FIFA should not

allow us to withdraw the number 10 shirt and that Bonano should use it,"

Co-operation between the two

World Cup hosts may have suffered

after Japanese referee Masayoshi

Okada refused South Korea a

penalty in the last minute of their

match against France here Sunday.

Sylvestre appeared to stop a Seol

Ki-Hyeon shot with his arm in the

penalty area just after Franck

Leboeuf had give the World Cup

holders a 3-2 lead in the last match

for both sides before the tournament

"I hope that we have some good

"Our 'Japan friend' in the last

Japan and South Korea have

generally highlighted their coopera-

tion in preparing for the World Cup.

of experience in a big match atmo-

up against tough world class

teams," said Hiddink, whose side

has beaten Scotland 4-1 and drawn

1-1 with England over the past two

"We proved today we could

refereeing in the future weeks," said

minutes missed a clear penalty. I got

mad. Our 'Japan friend' was the only

one in the stadium who did not see

French defender Mikael

AFP, Suwon

starts next Friday.

details

Hiddink after the match.

Hiddink gives a

piece of his mind match France. the team has

> start but after that we matched them technically. At the end we got a bit over-excited and made some mis-

teams is that the French know how to handle themselves in the last seconds of the game. We are still in

really gave us the run around but we never gave up. France has partly made up for the faux pas against Belaium.' France, which opens the World

Cup next Friday against Senegal, lost its previous international against Belgium 2-1.

are going to face at the World Cup,' said Lemerre.

Italy open

FROM PAGE 13

"This morning we had another

much, much better," said Ferretti. "However, he still feels some pain. He needs two days of physio-

over Japanese champions

The former Juventus striker had an operation on the same left knee in December and was out of action for three months but Ferretti said further examination of the knee on Monday had ruled out a recurrence

Trapattoni said there was no question of calling another player into the squad for Inzaghi.

"I have asked for no changes regarding replacements. I don't think a replacement is needed and I don't plan to call up another player at any rate we have plenty of other

To add to his busy morning with the medics, Inzaghi was one of four Italian players chosen for an unannounced dope test by FIFA staff on Monday at the team's base.

Sunday's game but the Italy coach said his mood improved after learning the injury was not as serious as initially feared.

"Pippo was in good humour this morning," said Trapattoni who added that Vincenzo Montella and Alessandro Del Piero had an equal chance of taking over Inzaghi's role

alongside Christian Vieri for the Ecuador game.

match.

After facing Ecuador in the Japanese city of Sapporo, Italy will



Belgium edge Costa Rica

KOREA JAPAN

Belgium beat Costa Rica 1-0 here Sunday in a warm-up match for the World Cup finals, keeping up the momentum of their 2-1 shock away win over defending champions France a week ago. Bart Goor, a midfielder from

German side Hertha Berlin, scored the sole goal in the 23rd minute following a free kick that was headed around and bounced back in the penalty area. Costa Rica midfielder Mauricio

Solis called Belgium as the better team over hosts Japan whom they meet in their opening World Cup group match in Saitama on June 4.5

We were surprised by Japan who turned out to be a fine team, said Solis, recalling a 1-1 friendly draw in Yokohama on April 7. "But Belgium look better in set plays such as free kicks and corner kicks."

Belgium, whose best performance was reaching the 1986 semifinals, will also face Russia and Tunisia in the Group H of the World

Cup first round. "Simply put, it was a tough match," said Belgium coach Robert

Waseige, whose side have rarely

he took the job three years ago. "Our opponents were quite aggressive and we had to substitute players for slight injuries Asked if he tested his players

fought a Latin American team since

Waseige said, "I have not made special preparations for the match with Japan Costa Rica pressed hard early in

the match while the Red Devils remained on the defensive. Manchester City striker Paulo

Wanchope threatened the Belgium net several times, failing to trap a cross right in front of an open net and shooting short an easy shot Defender Carlos Castro squandered another Costa Rica chance

when his long shot was punched

away by Belgian keeper Geert De Vlieger in the 14th minute. Five minutes later, Mauricio Solis shot a cross from Walter Centeno

straight into De Vlieger. But the match took a big turn in the 23rd minute when Costa Rica

defender Carlos Castro tripped down Marc Wilmots. Wilmots' free kick was headed sideways by Sven Vermant at the

goal mouth and the ball cleared off the head of another Costa Rican defender Mauricio Wright.

Goor banged back the loose ball into the Costa Rica net with his left

In the closing minutes of the first half, a short left-foot shot by Ronald Gomez in the right field bounced off the near post. Gomez's header on a fast break on 45 minutes also went Mpenza and Derby striker

Branko Strupar were sent in the second half to beef up Belgium's fire ower adding to their tight defence. Wanchope continued to lead Costa Rica's offensive as he drib-

bled past a defender but missed a one-on-one opportunity by lofting the ball over the bar in the 53rd The 25-year-old Wanchope was replaced by Winston Parks of Italy's

Udinese in the 73rd minute as the two sides were beginning to substitute players frequently.

Mbo Mpenza, emerging after star striker Emile Mpenza was ruled out of the World Cup with a muscle

injury, came close to scoring in the

81st minute when he booted back a cleared ball off the right post. Another scoring chance came in injury time when Derby striker Branko Strupar's header on a cross

from Danny Boffin was caught by Costa Rica keeper Erick Lonnis. Costa Rica are due to fly onto

South Korea for the Group C first round against Brazil, Turkey and

year's World Cup to children.

finals. Seoul will host the opening match.

JAPANESE FACE TICKET TROUBLE

AFP, Tokyo

spectators came to stadiums without their tickets due to ticketing delays. "The matter is of a great concern. We are still thinking about what to do," said a spokeswoman for the Japanese organising committee for the

JAWOC issued a statement Monday night saying they had yet to hear from ticket distributors Byrom, which had told JAWOC it would address the delays in ticketing by Monday afternoon.

"... great confusion is expected should overseas spectators that have purchased tickets from the international consignment, which Byrom is responsible for, arrive in Japan without prior receipt of their tickets,"

JAWOC said. "Consequently, this issue was brought up at the previous threegeneral-secretaries meeting where Byrom responded that they will investigate concrete measures to respond to this situation and announce

The JAWOC spokeswoman said they were vet to receive the response Monday evening.

off on Friday with title holders France versus Senegal

Thursday, a 3-1 win over semi-

professional South Korean team However the influential

played in the first match on

Barcelona star's knee problem kept him out of Saturday's unconvincing 1-0 success against K-League side Ulsan Horang-i. "Albelda has been able to train

but he's been uncomfortable striking the ball," said Camacho. "He'll step up his level of training

on Monday. "Luis Enrique could have played in the second game but we thought it

was best not to risk him as his knee was causing him some trouble."

criticism of the team's performances against the two club sides. He has clearly been annoyed by

question marks about his tactics.

Camacho also brushed aside

"The problem is that people are writing about things they don't really understand." Camacho added.

People aren't pessimistic around here - that's just the newspapers

"Some people have come and asked me and I've explained what we're doing but others just write what they like and don't ask for my opinion."

"The injuries we have had are all

"Tomorrow is for fishing or golf

England's other main injury

the kind of thing players get after

what has been a long hard season

for them but it looks like they will all

and everyone is back to work on

concern, Kieron Dyer, trained alone

on Monday. The Newcastle

midfielder is optimistic he can

overcome a knee injury but knows

he is likely to be sent home if he is

squad even if he cannot play on

Sunday in the hope he can recover

Beckham will stay with the

Concerns over England's other

not ready for the Sweden match.

be okay," Nystegt said.

Wednesday."

Heskey in, Becks doubtful

neatly tucking away the only chance that came his way against a

Butt winning his battle for fitness, now looks likely to opt for the Manchester United pair of Butt and Paul Scholes in the middle with Hargreaves on the right if Beckham

play anywhere." Whoever plays down the right

Ljungberg. The midfielder was central to Arsenal's blistering end to their double-winning season but his participation in the World Cup was

Ljungberg played for 74 minutes in Sweden's 1-1 draw with Japan on Saturday and declared himself confident of being ready for England, "Sometimes I can feel it (the back) a bit but it is going to be

that Ljungberg had shown no reaction to Saturday's exertions after his injury break. "It was decided before the match

that Freddie would not play the full 90 minutes," the Swedish FA's director of information, Gonaf "He could have done if it was

necessary. Now he is training and practising normally and he is fine." Tough-tackling midfielder

Magnus Svensson is also on track to resume training after aggravating a foot injury in Saturday's match.

"He has been running today and it seems that by Wednesday he will be back and able to practise with players carrying injuries have receded. The FA's Newman said that first

in time for later matches.

choice goalkeeper David Seaman, who missed the Cameroon match with a groin strain, Arsenal defender Ashley Cole and Manchester United midfielder Nicky Butt would all be ready to resume full training on Wednesday.

round of the World Cup - Mexico, CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 22 Antiquing **ACROSS** 40 Trojan 3 List-end-1 Singer War hero ing abbr. apparatus 42 Fabulous 4 Makes 23 Accept grain into things members 43 Royalty, bundles as they 5 Moviein rummy 48 Picnic pest pocket house 24 Math 49 Monad offering sign eponym 50 "SNL" 6 "Hi, sailor! 26 Ocean 7 Part of alumna motion

Dunn house acronym 51 Undeniably 52 They're chum the tops 17 Urban carrier river 18 Host DOWN 19 Unimprovable 1 Sandv's

26 Stomach 30 Fun and games 31 Math sign 32 Illuminated 33 Runs the session 35 Albacore 36 Suitable

8 Balls 9 Apparent worth 10 Muscat's 53 Charon's land tectors? 16 Weep 20 "Le Cog places reply 21 Rain-2 Extinct treat Zealander need overcoat 38 Hee-haw Solution time: 25 mins.

Tunisia 2-1 in a World Cup warmup match here on Sunday. Gronkiaer opened the scoring

in the 17th minute when he caught a left pass from Feyenoord forward Jon Dahl Tomasson and dribbled before firing a right-footer into the net.

Sahel striker Ziad Jaziri trapping a pass from Ajax midfielder Hatem Trabelsi and banging home on 62 minutes. Five minutes later, Ebbe Sand's header off a cross from

Gronkjaer proved to be the match

"It was a good match overall. Tunisia were on the offensive for most of the the second half, but we did well in our counter-attacks. This win gives us confidence," said Danish head coach Morten

fully, we can make a good result,"

"There's no reason to take risks with Martin, so he's not playing." Tunisia coach Ammar Souyah

said that he was still mulling over his final lineup. "I haven't yet decided whether I use a threemen defence line or four. I'm going to find out the best formation for

It was Tunisia's first goal in an international A match this season. Denmark are headed for South

"We are going to prepare from now on for our first match in the World Cup against Uruguay in Korea. It is very hard, but hope-

he added.

Chinese being realistic

tions here and of the players is great. You can say that we are

preparing for battle.' Captain Ma Mingyu put a positive spin on China's lacklustre performances in a string of recent friendlies -- they beat Thailand 3-1, drew 0-0 with South Korea but lost 2-0 to Uruguay and 1-0 to Dutch club PSV

Eindhoven. "We gained a lot from the friendly games," said midfielder Ma. "We could recognise our weaknesses

and start working on it to improve." China tried to play down expectations last week by writing an open letter to the nation's 80 million-odd soccer fans posted on the official website of the Chinese football

association www.fa.org.cn.

'You cannot deny, we are a new team in the World Cup and a weak one," the letter said. "Our lack of experience and ability have determined that we won't be able to go

approach while others scorned its But the letter has done little to dampen hopes at home that China

Some Chinese fans have praised the team for its pragmatic defeatist tone.

can defy the odds and make it to the second round.

Chinese fans are banking on

Milutinovic, who has guided four

national teams into the second

Known in Mandarin simply as "Milu", the Serbian has become the best loved and most recognised foreigner in China since they qualified for the World Cup in October

Milutinovic himself flopped between urging China to be realistic and hinting at the potential

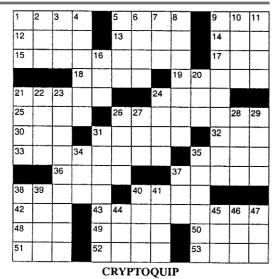
He has said China had a chance of reaching the second round on points if they beat Costa Rica, lost to

Brazil and held Turkey to a draw. China have also been encouraged by the recovery of several top players after a string of injuries in the last two months.

Asked about an injury to veteran striker Hao Haidong, Milutinovic said: "No problem. He'll do well in the next match. Defensive linchpin Fan Zhiyi was ready to start training again after

picking up an ankle injury against PSV Eindhoven, state media quoted Milutinovic as saying. China's goalkeeping coach Xu Tao, who was admitted to hospital last week after contracting hepatitis.

was also hoping to come to South Korea by June 3. state media said. China play Costa Rica in Kwangju on June 4, Brazil in Sogwipo on June 8 and Turkey in Seoul on June 13.



DJGA TUE'FG UEX WHXG, TUE YHT

THAT AN IDOL THREAT? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W 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 apostrop give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

improved a lot in the last weeks and KOREA JAPAN He added: "We had a shakey

"The difference between the

learn those lessons." French coach Roger Lemerre said "We suffered. The Korean team $\,$

10 days to recover full fitness. examination of the knee and it is

training. Inzaghi picked up the injury in scoring during a 2-1 warm-up win

Kashima Antlers on Sunday

of that injury.

options here," Trapattoni said.

Inzaghi looked despondent after

Trapattoni also has the option of pushing playmaker Francesco Totti into an advanced role if he opts for a 4-4-2 formation for the opening

then meet Croatia and Mexico at the finals.

Pleasure and pain

CUP CORNER

UNICEF and soccer's world governing body, FIFA, have dedicated this

South Korea and Japan are co-hosting the 2002 World Cup soccer

Japanese organisers of the football World Cup remained jittery Monday night after admitting they had still to decide what to do if foreign World Cup

World Cup (JAWOC).

them on Monday the 27th," it said.

The football tournament, co-hosted by Japan and South Korea, kicks

clinched the league title. playing.

world class defence. Eriksson tried West Ham's Joe Cole in the centre of midfield against Cameroon but, with Nicky

is not ready. "We would have no hesitation in playing Hargreaves in Beckham's role," Tord Grip, Eriksson's deputy, said. "He prefers central midfield but we have watched him many times for Bayern Munich and he can

against Sweden will have the crucial task of tracking the surging forward runs of Arsenal's Freddie

thrown into doubt by a back injury sustained in his club's May 8 win over Manchester United, which

fine," he said Swedish officials said Monday

Nystegt, told AFP.

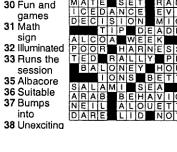
the rest of the squad," said Nystegt. Celtic defender Johan Mjallby has a problem with a shoulder

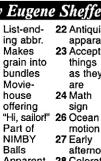
which has required cortisone injections but the injury is not regarded

5 Audience 9 Watch **12** İRA 13 Breakfast NIMBY 27 Early afternoor 14 Chartres 28 Coloration 29 Hellenes' 15 Tiny towel

21 Pullable 24 Can. unit 25 Eastern

37 Bumps

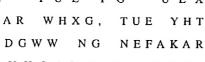




31 Aware 11 Chest pro- 34 Sermon subject 35 George W. Bush and J.R. Ewing 37 Brit's

> 39 Unrivaled 40 Alkali neutralizer 41 "West Side Story 44 Blackbird

45 Deterioration 46 Desiccate 47 Clinton's



YKQAKRJX Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF PEOPLE SAY THEY WANT TO START WORSHIPING FALSE GODS, IS

> Football Confederation, told AFP last week.

ers. And I am sure the World Cup will be no different." Although not a football fanatic. Mr X was quick to point out his favourites.

"As of today, Argentina are at 4-1,

Asia's football bosses have

warned that powerful betting syndi-

cates could attempt to rig games in

France 5-1, Italy 7-1 and Brazil 9-1.

But odds change almost everyday

"But that has not stopped the punt

Mr X wants

FROM PAGE 13

depending on injuries to key play-"And they will fluctuate once the tournament starts. It should be an exciting month."

South Korea and Japan by bribing referees or players. "Match-fixing is a spin-off of bigtime illegal gamblers," Peter Velappan, the World Cup coordinating director and head of the Asian

"Our instruction to all teams is to remain vigilant at all times." he said.

a learning process I hope we learn very fast we only have a few days to

"Today it was a lesson in what we

the first to be co-hosted and the first to be held in Asia. But since FIFA awarded the tournament in May 1996 they have had spats over who would stage the final and later ticket therapy and a gradual return to Hiddink said South Korea's lack

sphere had caused defeat this time but was still happy even though it ended a seven match unbeaten run. France beat South Korea 5-0 in the Confederations Cup last year. "This was our last game in preparation for the World Cup and it proved that we chose correctly to go

ahead of the clash with Japan,