

Fowler denies 'Lions' Ortega to get the honour



AFP, Kobe

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.

ately bereft of ideas Eriksson's squad are without the passing skills of Steven Gerrard and David Beckham. 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.

Ortega to get the honour



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.

Someone, Argentina's captain in the 1998 finals in France, told a news conference. Fellow midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron protested against Japan's refusal to allow Maradona to enter the country because of his drugs offences as a player.



PHOTO AFP

Marc Wilmots (L), the Belgium skipper, falls to the ground after being tackled by Costa Rica defender Juan Jose Rodriguez during their World Cup warm-up match at Kumamoto on May 26.

Jesper powers Danes



AFP, Wakayama

Chelsea striker Jesper Gronkjaer scored a goal and set up another as Denmark beat African outsiders

Tunisia 2-1 in a World Cup warm-up match here on Sunday. Gronkjaer 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.

Martin Jorgensen for the match due to a thigh injury, having said: "There's no reason to take risks with Martin, so he's not playing."



ARIEL ORTEGA

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

Belgium edge Costa Rica



AFP, Kumamoto

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.

fought a Latin American team since he took the job three years ago. "Our opponents were quite aggressive and we had to substitute players for slight injuries."

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 wide.

Keane loves

FROM PAGE 16 I am guilty."

McCarthy sent Keane home on Thursday after the two clashed in front of the rest of the squad at a team meeting.

Five minutes later, Ebbe Sand's header off a cross from Gronkjaer proved to be the match winner.

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

Hiddink gives a piece of his mind



AFP, Suwon

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.

match France. The team has improved a lot in the last weeks and months."

CUP CORNER

FROM PAGE 13 UNICEF and soccer's world governing body, FIFA, have dedicated this year's World Cup to children.

JANESE FACE TICKET TROUBLE 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 spectators came to stadiums without their tickets due to ticketing delays.

Pleasure and pain

FROM PAGE 13 played in the first match on Thursday, a 3-1 win over semi-professional South Korean team Ulsan Mipo.

However the influential Barcelona star's knee problem kept him out of Saturday's unconvincing 1-0 success against K-League side Ulsan Horang-i.

Brazil v Cameroon!

FROM PAGE 16 "But if they get to the final, they will have a high likelihood of taking the trophy."

A third fortune teller, Umawadee Siriakson, disagreed. "Italy, France, Germany, Argentina and Brazil will fare well, but ultimately France will win because they drew the sun card," said Umawadee, who is known as Thailand's 'fortune angel'."

Chinese being realistic

FROM PAGE 16 tions here and of the players is great. You can say that we are preparing for battle."

China will suffer the worst of Cup performances as they will lose all three of their first-round matches, he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Singer Ed 40 Trojan War hero 42 Fabulous flier 43 Royalty, in rummy 48 Picnic pest 49 Monad 50 "SNL" alumna 51 Undeniedly 52 They're the tops 53 Charon's carrier river DOWN 1 Sandy's reply 2 Extinct New Zealander need 3 List-end-ing abbr. 4 Makes grain into bundles 5 Movie-house offering 6 "H, sailor!" 7 Part of NIMBY 8 Balls 9 Apparent worth 10 Muscat's land 11 Chest protector? 12 WEEP 16 Weep 20 "La Coq" Ewing overcoat 38 Hee-haw 39 Unrivaled 40 Alkali neutralizer 41 "West Side Story" gang 44 Blackbird 45 Deterioration 46 Desiccate 47 Clinton's instrument

Cryptogram grid with letters and numbers 1-47

CRYPTOQUIP D J G A T U E ' F G U E X Q F K I K A R W H X G, T U E Y H T I G F T D G W W N G N E F A K A R X J G Y K Q A K R J X U K W Yesterday's Cryptopuzzle: IF PEOPLE SAY THEY WANT TO START WORSHIPING FALSE GODS, IS THAT AN IDOL THEATRE?

Heskey in, Becks doubtful

FROM PAGE 13

neatly tucking away the only chance that came his way against a world class defence. Eriksson tried West Ham's Joe Cole in the centre of midfield against Cameroon but, with Nicky 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 is not ready.

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 fine," he said.

as sufficiently serious to stop him playing. "The injuries we have had are all the kind of thing players get after what has been a long hard season for them but it looks like they will all be okay," Nystegst said.

Mr X wants

FROM PAGE 13 "But that has not stopped the punters. And I am sure the World Cup will be no different."

Trapattini 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 options here," Trapattini said.

38 Unexciting