# No second option for Reds



Liverpool have a do-or-die date with Swiss over-achievers FC Basel on Tuesday in the final leg of the European Champions League first round qualifying phase

Gerald Houllier's English Premiership leaders travel to St Jakob Park knowing only victory against the surprise package of the competition will ensure them a lucrative place in the last 16 as runners-up to Valencia in Group B.

Defeat will consign the four-time European champions to the UEFA

Swiss champions FC Basel, coached by former Tottenham boss Christian Gross, ensured they only needed a point from this crunch tie after a decisive 2-0 win over Spartak Moscow last week.

That places them second to the already-qualified Valencia on eight points, one ahead of Liverpool who suffered their first defeat of the English Premiership season on Saturday when they lost 1-0 to Middlesbrough.

Form may be on Basel's side after they knocked out Celtic in the pre-qualifying round and have held both Valencia and Liverpool to draws but history is not - no Swiss side has ever progressed from the first phase of the Champions League

Basel limbered up for the most vital match in their 109-year history on a six-day retreat in the Black Forest region - with Gross predicting his men will turn out "as strong

Houllier is angered at what he regards as inflammatory reporting in the Swiss press surrounding Liverpool's Swiss player Stephane

"Newspapers there have quoted our defender Stephane Henchoz saying things he would never say that were disrespectful to FC Basel," the renchman told his club's website.

"Stephane did not say them, and I'm sure this happened because they want to add more motivation to the Swiss team and add more pressure on the game. That is unfair. I don't think they need to do that to stir the crowd.

"We won't use that rubbish. "Maybe all this stuff shows that Basel are worried about the game.

Maybe they fear it and maybe they

#### **FIXTURES**

European Champions League first round fixtures on Tuesday:

> Group A At Auxerre Auxerre (Fra) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger) At Hiahbury Arsenal (Eng) v PSV Eindhoven (Ned)

Group B At Valencia Valencia (Spa) v Spartak Moscow (Rus) At Basel FC Basel (Swi) v Liverpool

(Eng)

**Group C** At Genk Genk (Bel) v Real Madrid (Spa) At Rome AS Roma (Ita) v AEK Athens (Gre)

Group D At Trondheim Rosenborg (Nor) v Lyon (Fra) At Amsterdam Ajax (Ned) v Inter Milan (Ita)

people chat a lot in the press, it is usually because confidence is not

Julio Hernan Rossi, scorer of Basel's first goal in Moscow, suggested Liverpool were in for a rocky

"We musn't have it in the back of our minds that a draw will do," he

"We're on a high at the moment, playing with confidence. The fact that we can reach the next round without depending on other results is fantastic.

Tuesday's Group A matches, Auxerre v Borussia Dortmund and Arsenal v PSV Eindhoven, are 'dead' affairs as both Dortmund and Arsenal have already qualified but it is a different story in Group D. Here Inter Milan, Ajax and Lyon

are facing off for the two precious qualifying spots, with Inter needing a point against Ajax to be certain of progressing, while a win for French side Lyon over Rosenborg will see them through. Inter president Massimo Moratti

feels his European champions in 1964 and 1965 will be all right on

"We can go to Amsterdam and win," he said.

"I'm confident we'll qualify." Group C action sees reigning champions Real Madrid, who will be without injured Zinedine Zidane, away to Genk although the Spanish giants have already booked their second-phase ticket.

Real coach Vincente del Bosque has also decided to rest superstars Ronaldo and Raul and midfielders Esteban Cambiasso and Claude Mekelele for the inconsequential

In the other game, AS Roma host AEK Athens with the Greeks needing a win to go through on Real's coat tails



A Harry Kewell (not in the picture) attempt enters the West Ham net during Leeds United's Premiership game at Upton

#### Premiership

## Sunderland see light



English Premiership strugglers Sunderland moved out of the relegation zone with an inspired 2-0 win over Tottenham at the Stadium of Light on Sunday.

Two goals in as many minutes secured the points for the north-east club - their first league win since new manager Howard Wilkinson joined them several weeks ago.

England forward Kevin Phillips claimed his first goal of the season on the hour mark. Two minutes later strike partner Tore Andre Flo netted to virtually end the match as a

The result completed a memorable day for Sunderland's fans who saw veteran striker Niall Quinn announce his retirement from football at half-time, the 36-year-old Republic of Ireland forward conceding defeat in his battle against a persistent back injury. Quinn, who called time on his international career after this summer's World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea. is the Republic's leading alltime scorer with 21 goals in 91

. The giant Irishman was given a standing ovation at half-time by the

He has raised one million pounds for hospitals in Sunderland, Dublin and Calcutta. The bulk came from his testimonial match against

Quinn has not started a game since returning from the Republic's World Cup campaign because of a recurring back injury.

He said after the match: "I want to spend time with my family and think what I want to do next."

Back to the match, it might have been a different story had Tottenham's Wales midfielder Simon Davies not steered his 55th minute shot wide, with keeper Jurgen Macho beaten.

Phillips made Tottenham pay for that miss five minutes later, his close range header from Michael Gray's cross giving Keller no chance.

neat flick that set Flo off on a race with Spurs defender Chris Perry.

Despite being forced wide Norway international Flo expertly beat Keller from an acute angle.

something to smile about with a 4-3 win over fellow strugglers West Ham at Upton Park.

Earlier Leeds gave their underpressure manager Terry Venables

It meant Venables side had won

hold in the match before they really frayed Leeds' nerves when England midfielder Trevor Sinclair's header 16 minutes from time made it 4-3.

Four goals in the opening 45 minutes ensured the visitors took all the points with striker Harry Kewell scoring twice.

His fellow Australian Mark Viduka also netted with England midfielder Nick Barmby opening



Niall Quinn waves bye on November 10.

their first game in seven as they moved up into 10th place and revived fans' hopes of a European

qualifying spot. The result left West Ham still looking for their first home win of the season and meant they dropped

into the bottom three following Sunderland's victory. Leeds, 4-1 up at the break, had to stave off a second-half West Ham

fightback and Venables was a relieved man afterwards. "It was a great game for the

neutral. I expected them to make a game of it," Venables told Sky "They could afford to go for it and

take a chance and we didn't take advantage of it," the ex-England

Goals either side of half-time from West Ham striker Paolo di Leeds' account in the 11th minute. Di Canio had kept West Ham in touch with a 21st-minute goal before converting a penalty five minutes after the break when he had been brought down in the box by Gary

The lively Italian said the team's only ray of light was their spirited fightback after his penalty.

Di Canio has previously criticised manager Glenn Roeder, whose position is once again under threat following this latest reverse.

But he refused to comment on Roeder's future Sunday, saying the most important thing was to concentrate on West Ham's next match, against Manchester United

"We have a lot to do but I know we will work hard on the training



Lilian Thuram (L), Juventus' French international, set to score against AC Milan at Turin on November 10.

## Juve cross major hurdle

Football

AFP, Rome

Reigning champions Juventus moved up to second in the table in Italy after beating title rivals AC Milan 2-1 at the Stadio Delle Alpi in Turin on Sunday.

Juve remain unbeaten on 21 points, one behind leaders Inter Milan who lost 2-1 at home to Udinese on Saturday.

Marco Di Vaio gave Juve an early advantage before a rare Lilian Thuram goal put Marcello Lippi's side firmly in the driving seat. Milan playmaker Andrea Pirlo

pulled a goal back from the penalty spot, but the home side held on for a valuable victory in the chase for the Scudetto, the Italian championship. French international Thuram said his defensive colleagues were

amazed to see him get on the score-"When I score the defence can't believe it," he said with a broad smile after a match whose second-

half failed to live up to the first 45 minutes "To score in an important match like this one is always a thrill, but it's even more satisfying to be part of

such a great squad. "I feel lucky to be a footballer when you play in great games like

Pavel Nedved was the architect of Di Vaio's eighth minute goal. The Czech midfielder collected

the ball in the centre-circle and snotted Alessandro Del Piero tearing down the wing unmarked. Nedved struck a superb diagonal

Pandiani takes

Real Mallorca powered into third place in the Spanish First Division on

Sunday when two goals from

Uruguayan striker Walter Pandiani

helped them to a 3-1 win over Alaves

Former Deportivo La Coruna

player Pandiani headed the first goal

from an Alvaro Novo cross, his

Argentinian teammate Ariel Ibagaza

scored the second and Pandiani

completed the job with a 76th-minute

the only consolation for Alaves.

Adrian Ilie's final minute goal was

Mallorca, who have never won

the Spanish title, now have 18

points, the same number as second-

placed Valencia but they trail sur-

prise leaders Real Sociedad by

three points.

Real Madrid are in fourth place

after Ronaldo scored his first goal in

more than a month as they beat

Rayo Vallecano 3-2 in the city derby

Sociedad's stalemate when they

were held to a 1-1 draw themselves

by Real Betis, Pablo Aimar's goal

cancelling out Marcos Assuncao's

Barcelona took full points with a 1-0 win over Villareal courtesy of a

penalty from Argentinian midfielder

In Sunday's other action, Atletico Madrid and Athletic Bilbao shared

the points after a thrilling 3-3 draw

which featured hat-tricks for Jose

the points when Jose Mari popped

up in injury-time to score the

Bilbao looked to have wrapped

Celta Vigo bolstered their title

challenge with a 1-0 win over

Espanyol, Jose Ignacio scoring the

TOP SIX

Standings in the Spanish champion-

ship after Sunday's matches

(played, won, drawn, lost, goals for,

Sociedad 9 6 3 0 21 13 21

9 5 2 2 12 9 4 4 1 17

6 18

Valencia 9 5 3 1 18

Mallorca 9 6 0 3 14

Barcelona 9 4 3 2 17

goals against, points):

decisive goal in the 17th minute.

Mari and Bilbao's Ismael Urzaiz.

Juan Roman Riquelme.

Valencia failed to profit from

on Saturday

and a club record six wins in a row.

Mallorca to

third

pass into the feet of the Italy international who took the ball into Milan's penalty box before crossing for strike partner Di Vaio to side-foot

21st minute with a classic counterattack from deep within their own half after a Milan raid had broken

Juve doubled their lead in the

Del Piero was fed 15 yards inside his own half and waited for support from his team-mates, one of whom was Thuram who sprinted from his own penalty to lend weight to the

Thuram latched on to Del Piero's perfect angled pass and slotted the ball low past Christian Abbiati in the Milan goal.

Milan were given a lifeline before half-time when Alessandro Birindelli handled the ball in his own penalty area and Pirlo coolly converted from 12 yards. There were few chances in a

looked in danger of leaking further goals with Thuram masterful in Earlier Sunday Chievo, last season's surprise package in Italy, moved up to fourth and piled more

misery on Atalanta by thumping the

tight second-half but Juve rarely

bottom club 4-1 at the Marc'Antonio Bentegodi stadium. Chievo, who finished fifth last season in their first Serie A campaign and qualified for the UEFA Cup, started slowly and fell behind

to Luigi Sala's 40th minute goal. But Federico Cossato ensured the home side went in at the interval on level terms by scoring a deserved equaliser a minute before

Second-half goals from Danierle

Franceschini, Simone Perrotta and another from Cossato ensured Chievo's third successive league victory after wins against AC Milan and Perugia.

Ten-man Lazio blew the chance to climb above Chievo after being held to a 0-0 draw against Parma at the Stadio Olimpico, where they had midfielder Fabio Liverani sent off for dissent before half-time

But the Roman club could have secured a win had Yugoslav international Sinisa Mihajlovic not missed a 24th minute penalty, his second successive spot-kick failure following his blunder in the Rome derby a fortnight ago.

A Guiseppe Signori penalty gave Bologna a 1-0 win at home to Como while Empoli triumphed 2-0 at struggling Brescia.

In Sunday's other matches Brazilian Jose Ze Maria's late penalty gave Perugia a 2-1 win at home to Torino while Rubens Pasino scored Modena's winner in a 1-0 victory at southern club Reggina.

In Saturday's other match AS Roma threw away the chance to put some pressure on the leading pack by drawing 1-1 at Piacanza.

#### TOP SIX

Italian league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost goals for, goals against, points):

Inter	9	7	1 1	19	9	22
Juventus	9	6	3 0	14	5	21
Milan	9	6	1 2	23	7	19
Chievo	9	6	0 3	18	10	18
Lazio	9	5	3 1	15	7	18
Roma	9	4	3 2	19	14	15

Hattori are other major absentees.

players, but they have their job for their clubs. I hope they play well for their clubs. It will make the national side better." said Zico.

going to give chances to other Other Europe-based players,

received their clubs agreement.

It will be Zico's second match Philippe Troussier after the World

Jamaica, Japan were held to a 1-1 draw when Preston forward Ricardo Fuller struck home an equalizer in the 80th minute.

## **Bosnich takes** lawyers' help

Football

**INTERNET**, London

Cheslea goalkeeper Mark Bosnich has referred allegations that he tested positive for cocaine to his

Jeff Weston, of Jerome Anderson International, told BBC Sport Online: "I can't make any comment at the moment, the whole matter is in the hands of the law-

Bosnich has been widely named as the player who failed a routine drugs test

Neither Sport England, which carried out the test, the Football Association or Chelsea have con-

firmed the identity of the player. Bosnich was reportedly tested

last Monday and the results leaked. Under drug testing rules, if a player initially tests positive for a banned substance, a test must then be carried out on a second urine

sample, the B Sample. Sport England has yet to set a date for the test on the B Sample. Should it prove positive, the FA will have to decide on disciplinary

Bosnich could face up to a vear's worldwide ban from the game, while Chelsea will examine if they have grounds to rip up Bosnich's £40,000

Chelsea issed a statement which said: "We cannot comment on the allegations of drug violatations made against one of our players. "Any testing undertaken is in

accordance with the doping regula-

a week contract

the 1998 finals in France.

"When I was a player, I felt

rivalry against Argentina as a

Brazilian, like Japanese always

feel rivalry against South Korea,

but I don't show it now, because I

"Basically, I don't change our

strategy. We have almost the same

players as before. Argentine play-

ers are good in their individual

skills. They often disguise their

opponents by feigning to hit a shot

ment. So we should not lose our

concentration until the end, we

should not give them space, and

we should not allow them to drib-

Saitama stadium at 19:20 local

**SQUAD** 

Sogahata (Kashima Antlers)

Goalkeepers: Seigo Narazaki

Defenders: Yutaka Akita

(Kashima), Akira Narahashi

(Kashima), Eisuke Nakanishi (JEF

United Ichihara), Makoto Tanaka

(Jubilo Iwata), Nobuhisa Yamada

(Urawa Red Diamonds), Naoki

Matsuda (Yokohama Marinos),

Midfielders: Yoshiharu Ueno

Yokohama), Takashi Fukunishi

Iwata), Alessandro Santos

(Shimizu S-Pulse), Shunsuke

Nakamura (Ita/Reggina), Mitsuo

Ogasawara (Kashima), Koji

Nakata (Kashima), Yasuhito Endo

Forwards: Masashi Nakayama

(Iwata), Takayuki Suzuki

(Bel/Genk), Atsushi Yanagisawa

(Kashima), Naohiro Takahara

Keisuke Tsuboi (Urawa)

(Gamba Osaka)

Nagoya Grampus Eight), Hitoshi

The match will kick off at the

"You can't anticipate their move-

to beat defenders.

ble "he added

time (1020 GMT).

want Japan to win," said Zico.

### Argentina friendly

# top stars

Football

Japan midfield star Hidetoshi Nakata and two of his fellow Europe-based players will skip next week's friendly against Argentina, Japan head coach Zico

"If I think only about the national

"Iwata are now fighting for the J-League title and I accepted their club's request. Instead of them. I'm

Italian Reggina's Shunsuke Nakamura and Takayuki Suzuki of Belgian Genk, will join the team after the football association

game against Jamaica last month. returns to the national side. since he took over from Frenchman

In his debut match against

authorities and remains a private matter between the club, the player and the football authorities. An FA spokesman said: "We cannot confirm or deny whether or

not a test has been carried out. "We do not discuss anything to

do with the FA's drug-testing programme." Bosnich was expected to be the

natural replacement for Peter Schmeichel when he moved to Manchester United from Aston Villa But he only made a handful of

appearances and his fitness was criticised by Sir Alex Ferguson.

Following his free transfer move to Chelsea in January 2001, he fell out with manager Claudio Ranieri after refusing to travel to Wales for a pre-season match.

Bosnich is currently third in the Chelsea pecking order behind Carlo Cudicini and Ed de Goev.



MARK BOSNICH

# Japan sans

AFP, Tokyo

said Monday. The Brazilian football legend said Feyenoord's Shinji Ono and Fulham's Junichi Inamoto will also stay away, while Jubilo Iwata's Hiroshi Nanami and Toshihiro

team, I want to call up the best

Alessandro "Alex" Santos of Shimizu S-Pulse, who missed the

Cup finals in June co-hosted by Japan and South Korea.

## Stasi suspect new Iraq coach



**AFP**, Leipzig

attack on Iraq.

Former East German coach Bernd Stange, on Sunday finally signed a four-year contract to manage Iraq's national team. The 54-year-old, once accused

of cooperating with the Stasi secret police, has also been put in charge of Iraq's Olympic football programme Stange's appointment follows six weeks of negotiations. His

contract contains a clause which

Hussein's regime. "I'm a football coach, not a politician," he insisted. "I believe in the Olympic ideal and I see my mission there like

When he was first lined up for

the post Stange carefully avoided

comment on President Saddam

that of a peace ambassador." After his spell managing East Germany Stange coached former German First Division club VfB

Leipzig until 1994 before pursuing his career in the Ukraine with Dniepropetrovsk, then in Australia where he took Perth Glory to the league runners-up spot. His last job was as the national

prevents him from commenting on coach of Oman, who sacked him political issues in the event of an in September of last year after just 10 weeks in the job.

# A diamond named Zola

Football

from the 36-year-old Italian.

at the moment.'

Chelsea manager Claudio Ranieri has hailed veteran striker Gianfranco Zola as a "genius" after yet another attacking masterclass

Zola laid on a goal for strike partner Eidur Gudjohnsen in the 3-0 humbling of Birmingham City on Saturday but saved the best for last as he rifled in a stunning long-range shot to complete the rout. "Zola's our genius," said a

delighted Ranieri after a win which lifted the Blues to third in the English Premiership table "He's fantastic and irreplaceable

And in the absence of the injured Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Zola --Chelsea's top scorer with nine league goals already - has adopted the mantle of talisman and goalscorer

time he gets the ball," Ranieri con-"He plays for the team and is always in the best position to receive the ball and pass it on quickly."

His renaissance highlights a

remarkable reversal of fortune - he

made only sporadic appearances

as a substitute last season while

"It's important we use him very

well, as he starts a new attack every

Hasselbaink and Gudjohnsen formed a prolific partnership. This season, however, it all changed as the former Parma and Napoli player grabbed his chance with both hands and not only broke up the pairing, but established himself as the first-choice forward.

striker Carlton Cole has now presented Ranieri with the tempting proposition of playing Zola behind a front two, a far cry from his defensive reputation. "I thought about putting Eidur

The emergence of teenage

and Carlton up front, with Gianfranco behind," he said. "But we've never played with a diamond in the middle, so I kept the 4-4-2 formation and used Eidur first and Carlton afterwards.

That substituting Zola is not even a possibility speaks volumes for his

Premiership player of the month award for October and as Chelsea's increasingly credible title challenge gathers pace, the list of admirers looks set to grow and grow. Scottish Premiership Top guns neck to neck

Last week he received the

a 2-1 win over Hibernian at Ibrox on Sunday. Elsewhere reigning champions Celtic kept up the pressure courtesy

huge 16 points ahead of third-placed

Tannadice where Wales forward

#### AFP, Glasgow Rangers maintained their one-point lead over arch-rivals Celtic at the top of the Scottish Premier League with

of a 2-0 win away to Dundee United. Yet again the title race looks like being a straight fight between the Glasgow giants with Celtic now a

pressed forward after Tom McManus' 45th-minute reply. Celtic had an easier time of it at

John Hartson's 11th goal of the season sent the visitors on their way to victory before ex-England striker Chris Sutton made sure of all three points two minutes from time.

# **GIANFRANCO ZOLA** standing in the manager's eyes, but Ranieri is not alone in his admiration

for the evergreen striker.

But it was not all plain sailing for Rangers. They appeared to be coasting when Michael Mols and Shota Arveladze put them 2-0 up inside 35 minutes, but Hibernian