



IF LOOKS COULD KILL! Manchester United superstar David Beckham leaving his home in yesterday with a stitch over his left eye. The Sun reported Beckham required stitches after being struck by a boot kicked by Sir Alex Ferguson as he vented his fury in the aftermath of Saturday's 2-0 FA Cup defeat by Arsenal at Old Trafford.

Primera Liga Top two crash

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Sociedad and Real Madrid, the leading pair in the Spanish First Division, both lost on Sunday to leave the Spanish title race wide open.

League leaders Sociedad went down 3-2 at Real Betis but still have a two point advantage over the European and world club champions after Real Madrid had earlier lost 1-0 at Osasuna.

The main beneficiaries of the top two tripping up on their travels are Valencia and Deportivo La Coruna, who were both victorious on Saturday.

Real Sociedad have 44 points from their 22 games, with Madrid second on 42 points.

What to WATCH
BTV
Cricket World Cup 2003
Preliminary Round
Bangladesh vs West Indies
Live at 1:45 pm

ESPN
Taking Guard Day 10
WC Cricket Talk Show
Live at 1:00 pm
Western Union World Football
Repeat at 8:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Follow Through Day 10
WC Cricket Programme
Live at 10:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
Barcelona vs Inter Milan
Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)

STAR Sports
Asia Sport Show
Int'l Sports News
Repeat at 10:00 am
Taking Guard Day 10
WC Cricket Talk Show
Live at 1:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Follow Through Day 10
WC Cricket Programme
Live at 10:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 22, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Name who became AFC's team of the month in January
Bangladesh Srilanka
India

2. Who finished first in the Prof Abdur Razzak 29th National Chess Championship qualifiers?
Nasir Aminul
Taibor

3. Who clinched the Pan Pacific Open tennis title?
Davenport Hingis

4. Bangladesh beat KwaZulu-Natal in their second World

Name

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Valencia remain third but now have the same number of points as Madrid, although the reigning champions have a slightly inferior goal difference, while Deportivo are fourth with 39 points.

TOP SCORERS

Leading scorers in the Spanish league after the weekend's matches:

16 - Roy Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)

12 - Nihat Kahveci (Real Sociedad)

11 - Darko Kovacevic (Real Sociedad)

10 - Patrick Kluyvert (Barcelona), Walter Pandiani (Real Mallorca), Fernando Torres (Atletico Madrid)

9 - Ismael Urzua (Athletic Bilbao), Raul Gonzalez (Real Madrid), Luis Figo (Real Madrid), Ronaldo (Real Madrid), Joseba Etxeberria (Athletic Bilbao)

8 - Julio Alvarez (Rayo Vallecano), Kiki Musampa (Malaga), Raul Molina (Recreativo Huelva), Fernando (Real Betis)

7 - John Carew (Valencia), Edu (Celta Vigo), Javi Guerrero (Racing Santander)

Sociedad looked set to take full advantage of Real Madrid's first loss in 16 matches, as they lead 2-1 in Seville with less than five minutes remaining in regulation time.

However, in a frantic finale, Betis defender Julian Filipescu equalised with his first goal in two seasons in the 86th minute.

The Roman international sent a shot spiralling over his head with his back to the goal and the looping effort completely deceived Sociedad 'keeper Sander Westerveld.

Betis then got all three points with a controversial penalty four minutes into injury time when Dani Martin crashed to the floor in the Sociedad box.

The visitors protested long and hard that Igor Juregi had not touched the Betis man, who was playing his first game for 10 months after a serious knee injury, but it was no avail and Fernando Fernandez scored from the spot.

Fernando had earlier headed Betis in front after 12 minutes but Sociedad's Nihat Kahveci struck back for the Basques with two goals in the space of five minutes late in the game.

Real Madrid had earlier squandered their chance of ending the weekend as league leaders by going down 1-0 at Osasuna.

Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque openly admitted that his team had failed to grasp their chance to put pressure on Sociedad.

"We didn't rise to the occasion at what may prove to be a key moment in the season," said Del Bosque, looking even more doleful than usual.

"The team continued fighting all

the way until the whistle but Osasuna made life uncomfortable for us for the entire 90 minutes.

"Nevertheless, we are still up there. What we have now is a more tense title race," added Del Bosque, desperately trying to find something positive from possibly Real's poorest league performance of the season.

Osasuna's Christian Manfredini was the man responsible for inflicting Real's second defeat of the season.

In only his second game for Osasuna since arriving last month on loan from Lazio, the Ivory Coast-born midfielder showed he has had little trouble adjusting to his new environment by outpacing his new marker Michel Salgado and sending home a low-flying thunderbolt after 38 minutes.

The hosts nearly got a second just after half time when Australian striker John Aloisi hit the post from close range.

Real's frustration at their own failings soon started to show and their misery piled on when Luis Figo got his marching orders just after the hour for an outrageous sliding two-footed tackle on Patxi Punal.

Shortly after Real had been reduced to 10 men, Osasuna hit the woodwork again with Inaki Munoz putting the ball on the cross bar.

However, Real were unlucky not to equalise in injury time when Fernando Morientes' header looked to have crossed the line, and the referee's decision not to award a goal will be a point debate over the next few days.

"The idea was to never let Real settle on the ball and I couldn't ask any more. This win gives us a bit of a breathing space between where we are and the relegation zone," said Osasuna coach Javier Aguirre.

As for Manfredini, he gave me much more than I could have expected. I wasn't expecting a goal from him," added the man who was at the helm of Mexico at the World Cup.

Fifth-placed Celta Vigo enjoyed themselves at the expense of bottom club Recreativo Huelva, winning 4-1 over the hapless Andalusiens.

Edu and Jesuit Mora each got a brace in Celta's biggest win of the season.

Recreativo couldn't even score on their own and had to rely on Celta's Fernando Caceres tapping the ball into his own net in injury time for their consolation strike.

Real Madrid had earlier squandered their chance of ending the weekend as league leaders by going down 1-0 at Osasuna.

Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque openly admitted that his team had failed to grasp their chance to put pressure on Sociedad.

"We didn't rise to the occasion at what may prove to be a key moment in the season," said Del Bosque, looking even more doleful than usual.

"The team continued fighting all

top hotel. They were due last Sunday but we couldn't cancel until the following Wednesday, so that meant 120 nights at high foreign currency rates because there had to be a 100 percent cancellation fee.

"Our losses therefore run into a great deal. But any claim will be considered at a later stage," Hogg said.

"A hearing is under consideration, but not at this stage. The matter remains open," said Hogg.

Meanwhile, the ZCU is still counting the cost of England boycotting their fixture here on Thursday.

Hogg said the loss of TV income, which is spread among the 10 Test nations and associate members, is considerable.

"But there is also the ticket sales as all money has to be returned, which also meant considerable man-hours. We have also lost large sums of money from catering, security, rentals and staffing."

"We had also booked about 30 of the England party for four nights at a

top hotel. They were due last Sunday but we couldn't cancel until the following Wednesday, so that meant 120 nights at high foreign currency rates because there had to be a 100 percent cancellation fee.

"Our losses therefore run into a great deal. But any claim will be considered at a later stage," Hogg said.

The Times of India said the growing anger against the players led many companies to withdraw TV advertisements showing cricketers endorsing products.

"But there is also the ticket sales as all money has to be returned, which also meant considerable man-hours. We have also lost large sums of money from catering, security, rentals and staffing."

"We had also booked about 30 of the England party for four nights at a

top hotel. They were due last Sunday but we couldn't cancel until the following Wednesday, so that meant 120 nights at high foreign currency rates because there had to be a 100 percent cancellation fee.

"Our losses therefore run into a great deal. But any claim will be considered at a later stage," Hogg said.

The Times of India said the growing anger against the players led many companies to withdraw TV advertisements showing cricketers endorsing products.

"But there is also the ticket sales as all money has to be returned, which also meant considerable man-hours. We have also lost large sums of money from catering, security, rentals and staffing."

"We had also booked about 30 of the England party for four nights at a

top hotel. They were due last Sunday but we couldn't cancel until the following Wednesday, so that meant 120 nights at high foreign currency rates because there had to be a 100 percent cancellation fee.

"Our losses therefore run into a great deal. But any claim will be considered at a later stage," Hogg said.

The Times of India said the growing anger against the players led many companies to withdraw TV advertisements showing cricketers endorsing products.

"But there is also the ticket sales as all money has to be returned, which also meant considerable man-hours. We have also lost large sums of money from catering, security, rentals and staffing."

"We had also booked about 30 of the England party for four nights at a

top hotel. They were due last Sunday but we couldn't cancel until the following Wednesday, so that meant 120 nights at high foreign currency rates because there had to be a 100 percent cancellation fee.

"Our losses therefore run into a great deal. But any claim will be considered at a later stage," Hogg said.

The Times of India said the growing anger against the players led many companies to withdraw TV advertisements showing cricketers endorsing products.

"But there is also the ticket sales as all money has to be returned, which also meant considerable man-hours. We have also lost large sums of money from catering, security, rentals and staffing."

"We had also booked about 30 of the England party for four nights at a

top hotel. They were due last Sunday but we couldn't cancel until the following Wednesday, so that meant 120 nights at high foreign currency rates because there had to be a 100 percent cancellation fee.

"Our losses therefore run into a great deal. But any claim will be considered at a later stage," Hogg said.

The Times of India said the growing anger against the players led many companies to withdraw TV advertisements showing cricketers endorsing products.

"But there is also the ticket sales as all money has to be returned, which also meant considerable man-hours. We have also lost large sums of money from catering, security, rentals and staffing."

"We had also booked about 30 of the England party for four nights at a

top hotel. They were due last Sunday but we couldn't cancel until the following Wednesday, so that meant 120 nights at high foreign currency rates because there had to be a 100 percent cancellation fee.

"Our losses therefore run into a great deal. But any claim will be considered at a later stage," Hogg said.

The Times of India said the growing anger against the players led many companies to withdraw TV advertisements showing cricketers endorsing products.

"But there is also the ticket sales as all money has to be returned, which also meant considerable man-hours. We have also lost large sums of money from catering, security, rentals and staffing."

"We had also booked about 30 of the England party for four nights at a

top hotel. They were due last Sunday but we couldn't cancel until the following Wednesday, so that meant 120 nights at high foreign currency rates because there had to be a 100 percent cancellation fee.

"Our losses therefore run into a great deal. But any claim will be considered at a later stage," Hogg said.

The Times of India said the growing anger against the players led many companies to withdraw TV advertisements showing cricketers endorsing products.

"But there is also the ticket sales as all money has to be returned, which also meant considerable man-hours. We have also lost large sums of money from catering, security, rentals and staffing."

"We had also booked about 30 of the England party for four nights at a

top hotel. They were due last Sunday but we couldn't cancel until the following Wednesday, so that meant 120 nights at high foreign currency rates because there had to be a 100 percent cancellation fee.

"Our losses therefore run into a great deal. But any claim will be considered at a later stage," Hogg said.

The Times of India said the growing anger against the players led many companies to withdraw TV advertisements showing cricketers endorsing products.

"But there is also the ticket sales as all money has to be returned, which also meant considerable man-hours. We have also lost large sums of money from catering, security, rentals and staffing."

"We had also booked about 30 of the England party for four nights at a

top hotel. They were due last Sunday but we couldn't cancel until the following Wednesday, so that meant 120 nights at high foreign currency rates because there had to be a 100 percent cancellation fee.

"Our losses therefore run into a great deal. But any claim will be considered at a later stage," Hogg said.

The Times of India said the growing anger against the players led many companies to withdraw TV advertisements showing cricketers endorsing products.

"But there is also the ticket sales as all money has to be returned, which also meant considerable man-hours. We have also lost large sums of money from catering, security, rentals and staffing."

"We had also booked about 30 of the England party for four nights at a

top hotel. They were due last Sunday but we couldn't cancel until the following Wednesday, so that meant 120 nights at high foreign currency rates because there had to be a 100 percent cancellation fee.

"Our losses therefore run into a great deal. But any claim will be considered at a later stage," Hogg said.

The Times of India said the growing anger against the players led many companies to withdraw TV advertisements showing cricketers endorsing products.

"But there is also the ticket sales as all money has to be returned, which also meant considerable man-hours. We have also lost large sums of money from catering, security, rentals and staffing."

"We had also booked about 30 of the England party for four nights at a

top hotel. They were due last Sunday but we couldn't cancel until the following Wednesday, so that meant 120 nights at high foreign currency rates because there had to be a 100 percent cancellation fee.

"Our losses therefore run into a great deal. But any claim will be considered at a later stage," Hogg said.

The Times of India said the growing anger against the players led many companies to withdraw TV advertisements showing cricketers endorsing products.

"But there is also the ticket sales as all money has to be returned, which also meant