



JOSE ANTONIO CAMACHO

Camacho gives up Remon Real's caretaker coach

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez said Monday he had accepted Jose Antonio Camacho's resignation as coach and appointed his deputy Mariano Garcia Remon in a caretaker role.

Real won their first two Liga games 1-0 but were thrashed 3-0 by Bayer Leverkusen in the European Champions League last week and lost 1-0 to modest Espanyol on Sunday when Camacho benched club captain Raul and England captain David Beckham.

The win put Espanyol, who finished fifth-from-bottom last season, top of the table. Real are currently eighth.

The tough-talking Camacho admitted he had been unable to work with the Real superstars.

"This year, the president, the board and the fans believed in me," he told a news conference at which he refused to answer any questions.

"But I can only admit that the team has not performed as they should have and they are not going to improve with me staying. By staying the crisis could have got worse, so I decided to go."

It is the second time Camacho has walked out on Real. Six years ago the 49-year-old Camacho resigned just three weeks after arriving at Real following a disagreement with former president Lorenzo Sanz over transfer policy.

That led to four years as coach of Spain's underachieving national side before a season at Benfica of Portugal before the revolving door at Real spun once again with the ejection of Carlos Queiroz following a Champions League quarter-final exit to Monaco and only fourth place in the league.

If Camacho looked to have won the transfer game with the signings of big-name defenders Walter Samuel and Jonathan Woodgate, as well as England hitman Michael Owen, his second reign has ended

Clough no more

BBC ONLINE, London

Legendary former Nottingham Forest and Derby County boss Brian Clough has died from stomach cancer at the age of 69.

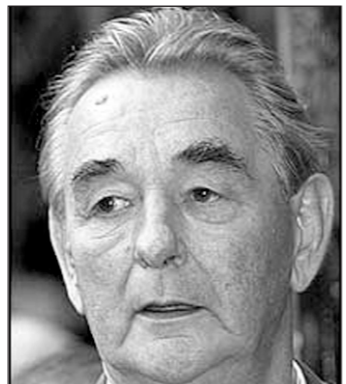
Clough, who suffered ill-health for many years and had a liver transplant in 2003, died in Derby City hospital.

Clough took Forest to successive European Cups in 1979 and 1980, and also won the League title twice.

His eccentric approach became legendary but Clough was one of the most respected bosses in the game, bowing out of management in 1993.

Clough began his football career at his home-town club Middlesbrough, and enjoyed a successful career, scoring 204 goals in 222 games and winning two England caps.

A knee injury forced him to retire early from playing, but Clough enjoyed a rapid rise as a manager.



BRIAN CLOUGH

After becoming Hartlepool boss at 30 - then the youngest manager in the league - Clough moved to Forest taking them to the Division One title in 1972.

After resigning from Derby, Clough had brief - and unsuccessful - spells at Brighton and Leeds.

But he then moved to Forest where he cemented his reputation as a brilliant, unconventional manager in an 18-year reign.

One league title in 1978 was followed by two successive European Cups and four League Cups.

Only one other British manager won more European Cups - Liverpool boss Bob Paisley - but Clough's reputation as a manager remained unmatched.

Ligue 1 Monaco pip PSG

AFP, Paris

Togo's Emmanuel Adebayor shot Monaco to the top of the French league table on Sunday with the winner in a 1-0 victory over Paris Saint Germain who thought their season could not get any worse.

Adebayor's diving header in the 83rd minute put Didier Deschamps' men in the driving seat after six matches and left PSG still without a victory and having been thrashed 3-0 by Chelsea in the Champions League in midweek.

Coach Valid Halilhodzic's team failed a major test after crisis talks were held by players on Thursday to sort out the destructive infighting which was blamed for their Chelsea humiliation.

PSG supporters chanted "Halilhodzic resign, Halilhodzic resign" on the final whistle in a clear message of what they thought of the team's performance.

Pauleta hit the post midway through the half in a superb individual piece of skill. For Monaco, Adebayor also had a chance to score with the goal at his mercy following a Javier Saviola cross but failed to convert his chance from the edge of the six-yard box.

The second half was a tamer affair though Adebayor looked to have scored with a quarter-hour to go but PSG's Jose Karl Pierre-Fanfani somehow managed to turn the ball away for a corner.

Adebayor made amends with a superb diving header after a cross from Douglas Maicon however to score Monaco's winner in the closing minutes.

Adebayor appeared to injure himself slightly after scoring the goal however and he was replaced by Hassan El Fakiri.

Monaco have 13 points and lead by one point from Auxerre, Bastia and Lyon, who have 12.

On Saturday, Bastia earned a 0-0 draw at Lyon.

Marseille stopped a run of two consecutive defeats in a 1-0 win over Toulouse at their Velodrome stadium.

In other matches, Bordeaux drew 0-0 at Rennes, Ajaccio had a 1-1 stalemate with St Etienne, Nantes beat FC Istres 1-0, Strasbourg drew 2-2 against Lens, Lille had a 2-0 victory over Caen and Nice beat Sochaux 2-1.

TOP SIX										
French football league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):										
Monaco	6	4	1	1	8	4	13			
Auxerre	6	4	0	2	10	5	12			
Bastia	6	3	3	0	6	3	12			
Lyon	6	3	3	0	6	3	12			
Toulouse	6	3	2	1	11	6	11			
Metz	6	3	2	1	7	7	11			

Primera Liga

Real trouble hogs headlines

Football

AFP, Madrid

An action-packed weekend of football in Spain's La Liga culminated in the biggest news coming off the pitch as Real Madrid's under-fire coach Jose Antonio Camacho resigning.

Saturday's abject loss to Espanyol lit the touch paper, coming as it did just four days after German outfit Bayer Leverkusen sent Real packing in the opening match of the Champions League.

Cadena Ser radio reported late Sunday that Camacho had spoken to Real chairman Florentino Perez and offered to stand down. Perez had asked him to sleep on it before accepting the resignation on Monday.

Tuesday sees Real host Osasuna and were the meringues and their galacticos to drop more points, it could be the end of the line for Camacho even if he is persuaded to stay on after Monday's crisis meeting.

If he does part company with the nine-times European champions it would be a humiliating exit for the 49-year-old Camacho.

Spain's unforgiving fans will look at a table which shows not just the hated Barcelona a point ahead of them but also city rivals Atletico Madrid after the pair parted 1-1 in the capital on Sunday night.

Barca, who have looked title material to judge by their early form which follows on from a superb second half to last year's campaign, took the lead on 22 minutes through former Arsenal man Giovanni Van Bronckhorst, their Dutch defender, only for Fernando Torres to clip home the equaliser after the break.

Torres' third goal of the season only serves to show up the out-of-form Raul at Real, the latter having completely lost his route to goal in recent months.

STANDINGS						
Standings in the Spanish league after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):						
Espanyol	3	2	1	0	6	2 7
Atletico	3	2	1	0	5	1 7
Barcelona	3	2	1	0	5	1 7
Osasuna	3	2	1	0	7	4 7
Zaragoza	3	2	1	0	7	4 7
Valencia	3	2	1	0	7	4 7

In the late game, Athletic Bilbao are still without a win after losing 2-1 at home to Deportivo La Coruna, who secured their first win.

Iraola put Bilbao ahead ten minutes after the interval but Walter

Pandiani headed the visitors level and Luque snatched the win right on the whistle.

The top six now shows no mention of Real with a six-way tie on teams who have seven points from

three games. Espanyol lead the way with Atletico and Barca, as well as Osasuna, reigning champions Valencia and Real Zaragoza in hot pursuit.

Valencia showed their mettle with a 3-1 home win Saturday over Real Sociedad with Marco Di Vaio scoring twice and Mista grabbing the third.



Barcelona's Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho (R) has his path blocked by Atletico Madrid's French international Peter Lucin at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid on September 19.

An English concern

Football

INTERNET SOURCE

Real Madrid's English trio of David Beckham, Michael Owen and Jonathan Woodgate face uncertain futures as the managerial merry-go-round at the Bernabeu continues, with Jose Antonio Camacho resigning on Monday.

A poor start to the season, culminating in a 1-0 defeat by lowly Espanyol on Saturday, has culminated in boss Camacho admitting his exasperation at trying to manage so many high-profile 'Galacticos'.

His departure will no doubt affect the English contingent greatly, with Beckham among the problematic high-profile stars Camacho refers to, while Owen and Woodgate have not proved themselves yet.

Camacho is frustrated at his inability to win over the dressing room since becoming Madrid coach in the summer.

"I can see I don't have the support of the players and I feel as if I am on my own in this project. I don't have the strength to do it all alone," Madrid-based sports paper Marca reported him as telling the squad.

Even the legendary Camacho is unable to inspire those players to better efforts, the fans are certain to direct their wrath at those they see responsible - and that will put Beckham right in the firing line.

Beckham won many plaudits when he first moved to Spain but he lost form in the second half of last season and has not regained it so far this term, and Camacho's decision to leave him on the bench for Saturday's game against Espanyol suggests a strained relationship.

Owen could also see himself under pressure, but for different reasons.

Camacho was said to be unhappy with the arrival of Owen, preferring a defensive midfielder to a striker.

To Camacho's credit, he has not left Owen on the sidelines. Indeed, the England striker began Saturday's game, although he struggled to make an impression.

The arrival of a new coach could allow Owen to make a start with a leader who is happy to have him in the squad.

Woodgate can take no part of the blame for either Camacho or Real's troubles, but depending on who arrives as a replacement, the coach's departure may be bad news for him.

Whereas Camacho did not want Owen, Woodgate's signing is thought to have been on his petition to Perez, requesting another player to shore up Madrid's defence.

But after spending a month in Madrid, Woodgate is still not fit and is at least three weeks away from playing again. By then the season will be well under way, and the man who spent 22 million euros to bring him to the club will have gone. That could make it difficult for Woodgate to break into the squad.

At the moment it looks as if Camacho's third coach Mariano Garcia Ramon will take over, at least on a temporary basis. The club have called a meeting of the directors later today.

Perez has a serious dilemma: last season's coach Carlos Queiroz failed because many saw him as too soft on Madrid's stars. Camacho has failed for exactly the opposite reason: he was too hard and they did not accept it.

However, there is one man who commands the respect of his players, who is seen in Madrid as a modern sophisticated coach and who already knows several of the players well.

Sven-Goran Eriksson could well be a target and should he be tempted away from the England team, the situation of Beckham, Owen and Woodgate could be better than they ever imagined.

Premiership

Exasperating Chelsea

Football

AFP, London

Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho was left furious after his expensive collection of stars were held to a 0-0 draw by Spurs on Sunday as his team failed to close the gap on leaders Arsenal.

The day after Arsenal's perfect start to the season was checked by Bolton in a 2-2 draw, Chelsea could have gone level on points had they beaten Spurs at Stamford Bridge.

While Tottenham was still without a win against Chelsea in 29 games, dating back to February 1990, their manager Jacques Santini was the happier man as his side stayed unbeaten.

"I am frustrated because there is only one team that played to win and the other just not to concede goals," said Mourinho.

"They had a header and then defended, they didn't play football

they brought the bus and left the bus in front of the goal as we say in my country." Santini couldn't praise his side high enough in a defence that was superbly marshalled by man-of-the-match Ledley King.

"I am pleased. When we play against Chelsea who have big international players, I am happy for the fans and the players."

Everton, who had been expected to struggle after the departure of Wayne Rooney to Manchester United, beat Middlesbrough 1-0 at Goodison to go third, their best placing for three years.

Marcus Bent scored the only goal in the 47th minute as Everton extended their unbeaten run to five games to give them their best start for 28 years.

In Sunday's other game Newcastle recorded their first league win at Southampton since February 1972 as a Stephen Carr second half wonder-strike proved the winner in a 2-1 win.

It was new manager Graeme Souness' first Premiership game in

charge after officially taking over from Sir Bobby Robson for Thursday's 2-0 UEFA Cup win over Israeli side Hapoel Bnei Sakhnin at St James' Park.

Newcastle's first away win of the season took them into the top half of the Premiership as Carr's strike after David Prutton's first half own goal was enough to see off Southampton, who were briefly back on terms through Anders Svensson.

On Saturday, high-flying Bolton ended Arsenal's perfect start to their Premiership title defence by twice coming from behind to earn a 2-2 draw at Highbury.

Manchester City eased the immediate pressure on manager Kevin Keegan with a 2-1 win away at bottom-side Crystal Palace.

Mark Hughes' first match in charge of Blackburn ended with the club's first win of the season, Matt Jansen's stunning second half strike enough to secure a 1-0 win over Portsmouth that lifts Rovers out of

the relegation zone. Birmingham and Charlton shared the points at St Andrews, Dwight Yorke (68) cancelling out Luke Young's 49th-minute goal for the visitors.

Norwich made it four draws out of six games since their return to the top flight after a four goalless encounter with Aston Villa at Carrow Road.

None of the three teams promoted last season have managed to win a match yet and Saturday's results left them occupying the three relegation spots.

TOP SIX										
Standings in the English Premiership after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):										
Arsenal	6	5	1	0	21	7	16			
Chelsea	6	4	2	0	6	1	14			
Everton	6	4	1	1	8	6	13			
Bolton	6	3	2	1	11	8	11			
Tottenham	6	2	4	0	4	2	10			
Middlesbrough	6	3	1	2	11	10	10			

Voller questions Colina

AFP, Rome

Rudi Voller has questioned the integrity of referee Pierluigi Collina after his Roma side lost 4-3 away to newly-promoted Messina.

Vincenzo Montella scored a hat-trick for the visitors, but still ended up on the losing side as the Sicilians edged Sunday's seven-goal thriller.

Former Germany coach Voller was unhappy that Collina gave a penalty against Philippe Mexes in the 21st minute for what appeared to be a fair challenge on Riccardo Zampagna by Roma's French defender.

Collina is regarded as the best referee in the world, but Voller believes the Italian was far too quick to reach for his whistle for the spot-kick which enabled Messina to go 1-0 up.

"I'd like to know if Collina would have given a penalty for the same offence in, for example, a European match between Chelsea and Arsenal in an English stadium," said Voller, who played for Roma between 1987 and 1992.

"I've already explained to Mexes that he's no longer playing in France and that in Serie A certain challenges cost you penalties, but I'm still puzzled as to why Collina blew up."

Serie A

Montella treble not enough

Football

REUTERS, Milan

AS Roma suffered a surprise 4-3 defeat at promoted Messina despite a hat-trick from striker Vincenzo Montella in Serie A on Sunday.

Thanks to Montella Roma led 3-2 before goals from Domenico Giampa' and Riccardo Zampagna gave the Sicilians, playing their first top-flight home game for 39 years, a memorable victory.

Champions AC Milan left it late at Bologna with an 84th minute penalty from Andriy Shevchenko and an injury-time strike from Brazilian Kaka securing a 2-0 win.

Two goals from David Trezeguet led Juventus to a comfortable 2-0 victory at home to Atalanta while Lazio were held to a 1-1 draw against visiting Reggina.

On Saturday, Inter Milan could only manage a 1-1 draw at home to Palermo.

After two games Juventus are the only team in Serie A to have a maximum six points.

It was a day to celebrate in Messina and the Sicilian team rose to the occasion with a spirited performance against one of the likely

title contenders. Alessandro Parisi put Messina ahead in the 20th minute from the penalty spot after referee Pierluigi Collina harshly judged that Roma's French defender Philippe Mexes had fouled Zampagna.

Montella equalised 10 minutes before the break, reacting swiftly to pounce on a header down from Mancini.

Messina restored their lead shortly after the interval through Salvatore Sulla who slotted home after Zampagna had acrobatically volleyed against the post.

A superb low drive from the edge of the area by Montella made it 2-2 after 64 minutes and he struck again from close range four minutes later to put Rudi Voller's side ahead.

The home side were in no mood to give up, however, and after a free kick ricocheted off the wall, Domenico Giampa' pounced to fire past Ivan Pelizzoli and level the scores. The comeback was crowned in the 78th minute by a superb chip from Zampagna.

Juventus followed their 3-0 win at Brescia on the opening day of the season and a 1-0 midweek victory at Ajax Amsterdam in the Champions League by continuing their impressive start with another confident

display at the Delle Alpi stadium.

Trezeguet turned in a low ball from Gianluca Zambrotta to give Juve the lead in the 14th minute and made sure of the three points with a cool finish in the 58th after being set up by Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Carlo Ancelotti's Milan found it hard going at Bologna whose goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca was in inspired form.

Milan finally broke through in the 84th minute when Bologna defender Leonardo Colucci's lunging challenge on Kaka led to the penalty, which Ukrainian Shevchenko slotted home.

In injury time Filippo Inzaghi won possession on the right and his deflected low cross was whipped home by Kaka.

Lazio took the lead against Reggina through a highly debatable penalty after Simone Inzaghi went down inside the area and converted the resulting spot-kick.

Minutes later, though, Emiliano Bonazzoli responded with a stunning volley to give the Calabrians a deserved point.

Udinese were hosting Parma later on Sunday while Serie A returns to action with a full round of games on Wednesday.



PHOTO: AFP

Diego Maradona listens to a question during the recording of a TV programme in Buenos Aires on September 19. Maradona confirmed in the programme that he will travel to Cuba on Monday to undergo treatment for his cocaine addiction.