

Gerrard eyes Europe

REUTERS, London

Captain Steven Gerrard will consider his Liverpool future at the end of the season, following interest from top European clubs.

Gerrard, a product of Liverpool's youth system, has regularly been linked with Premier League rivals Chelsea, Manchester United and Arsenal, along with Real Madrid.

"I'll sit down at the end of the season and assess the situation," the 24-year-old England midfielder told the BBC on Saturday. "I'm settled at the moment and I've got some massive games to play in the near future."

"There's some top clubs around Europe who are showing some interest, but I'm at a top club as I speak and I'll concentrate giving all I've got for Liverpool."

Gerrard has been inspirational this season, most recently scoring in both semi-final legs against Watford to put Liverpool into a League Cup final on February 27 against Chelsea.

Fifth in the Premier League table, Liverpool have fallen well behind Chelsea, Arsenal and United in recent years, while Gerrard has made no secret of his desire for regular Champions League football.

"I always look for improvement from the club," Gerrard said.

"It's been a bit disappointing so far this season, as far as the challenge for the title is concerned. But I've got a chance of lifting a Cup and finishing in the top four."

Thanks to a Gerrard goal against Olympiakos last month, Liverpool are through to the Champions League knockout stage, where they face Bayer Leverkusen.

The Ronaldo mystery

AP, Rio de Janeiro

Real Madrid striker Ronaldo, who has returned to Brazil to see an ill family member, is expected to return to Spain on Monday because the health of the close relative had "improved substantially," the player's spokesman said Friday.

Ronaldo had to go back to his country after receiving a call from his family that he needed to be in Brazil due to a health problem of a close relative, a brief statement on the Real Madrid website said, giving no more details.

"The family member's health problem that forced him to rush back to Brazil is far less serious than it was when we called him," Ronaldo's spokesman, Rodrigo Paiva said. "Everything is under control and the family member whose condition has improved substantially and who was never hospitalized, is resting at home."

Paiva refused to identify the family member or the nature of the health problem but local media said it was his brother's health that prompted the superstar to rush home.

Ronaldo, who arrived in Rio de Janeiro late Friday night, still was not talking to reporters but according to several media reports, it was Ronaldo's older brother, Nelinho, who fell ill. Paiva would not confirm the information, but said that the family member's condition was serious.

Earlier media reports had said Ronaldo's mother was the ill family member, but people who were on Ronaldo's flight to Rio told reporters that the striker said the problem was with Nelinho.

The striker will miss Real Madrid's Sunday match against Numancia in the Spanish league.

Chelsea's staggering loss

AFP, London

Premiership leaders Chelsea made a record pre-tax loss of 88 million pounds last year, according to a report here on Sunday.

The club, who have been bankrolled by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, spent 175 million pounds on new players last season, more than doubling its annual payroll to 115 million pounds, a BBC report claimed.

Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon said the club will rein in spending on players next season by around 20% as the league leaders aim to break even by the financial year of 2009-2010.

Chelsea's loss is more than double the previous record.

"Two years ago we were seen as streets paved with gold. That is over. Chelsea is now being run properly; it's being run as a business," Kenyon told the BBC.

Manchester United's payroll at the same time was 77 million pounds while bottom club West Bromwich Albion's in 2003 was just 11.5 million.

According to the BBC, wages at Stamford Bridge accounted for 76% of the club's total income last year with Kenyon vowing to bring down that figure to no more than 55%.

Kenyon moved to reassure Chelsea fans by insisting that Abramovich intends to be with the club for the long term.

"Roman is at Chelsea for the long run. He has bought in completely to the vision of making this club one of the biggest and best in Europe," said Kenyon.

"This was not a vanity purchase for the owner. It's a serious investment with a long-term business plan."



Wayne Rooney of Manchester United watches his goal bound shot against Middlesbrough during their fourth round FA Cup clash at Old Trafford in Manchester on January 29.

PHOTO: AFP

FA CUP

Big boys' night

Football

AFP, London

Wayne Rooney scored two spectacular goals as holders Manchester United reached the fifth round of the FA Cup on a day when the giants of the Premiership hammered home their authority in the world's oldest cup competition.

Rooney made it four goals in five games to seal an emphatic 3-0 victory for United over Middlesbrough at Old Trafford.

John O'Shea had opened the scoring with a rare goal after just 10 minutes as the Reds buried the misery of their League Cup semi-final exit at the hands of Chelsea in midweek.

Premiership champions Arsenal also made it through as did Everton, Charlton, Blackburn, Southampton and Newcastle while league leaders Chelsea can also book their place in the fifth round on Sunday when they take on Birmingham.

But it was teenage star Rooney who grabbed the headlines with two pieces of sublime finishing in the second half against Boro.

First the England striker embarrassed goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer by lobbing in from 30 yards out and then scored the third eight minutes from time when he unleashed a right-foot volley from an acute angle.

"The first Rooney goal was precision. They were both marvellous goals," said United manager Alex Ferguson.

It was a tricky tie as Middlesbrough have a good record at our ground but the players applied themselves very well.

Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren admitted that Rooney had made the difference.

"It was always going to be difficult here and we came across a Manchester United side which was very good on the day," he said. "In Wayne Rooney they had the difference on the day. He is a magnificent player."

Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira scored a 53rd-minute penalty after Thierry Henry was fouled in the box by Michael Oakes to put the Gunners on course for a 2-0 against Wolverhampton at Highbury.

Freddie Ljungberg scored his 10th goal of the season on 82 minutes after Henry's fine run to seal victory.

Everton secured a 3-0 win over visitors Sunderland with James Beattie notching his first goal for the club since his transfer from Southampton.

James McFadden gave the hosts the lead in the ninth minute before Beattie stretched the lead on 27 minutes.

Australia midfielder Tim Cahill made it 3-0 after 80 minutes as Everton cruised into the fifth round.

Newcastle showed they can survive without controversial striker Craig Bellamy by beating Coventry 3-1 thanks to goals from Alan Shearer, Shola Ameobi and Celestine Babayaro.

Charlton manager Alan Curbishley admitted that League Two side Yeovil had given them a fright in their tie at The Valley before they emerged 3-2 winners.

"They definitely gave us a fright," said Curbishley.

"I think we could have made it easier for ourselves, but overall I think it was a great cup tie and I think the Yeovil fans got a lot out of it, as did their team."

A volley from Bryan Hughes on 37 minutes gave Charlton the lead but Yeovil equalised on 44 minutes with a goal from Paul Terry, brother of Chelsea and England defender John.

Francis Jeffers put the Addicks ahead again on 51 minutes and Shaun Bartlett made it 3-1 with a fine finish six minutes later before substitute Aron Davies pulled one back for the visitors on 66 minutes.

Southampton's new manager Harry Redknapp was left to celebrate a place in the fifth round at the expense of his former club Portsmouth after beanpole striker Peter Crouch hit a controversial 90th-minute winner from the penalty spot.

Portsmouth coach Joe Jordan was unimpressed by the referee's decision to award the spot-kick for a handball against defender Matt Taylor after consulting his assistant.

"When you see a referee make a decision when he is in a good position before going to speak to his linesman who has put up his flag, then you are going to get emotions," said Jordan. Matthew Oakley had opened the

scoring for the Saints after 54 minutes only for Yakubu Aiyegbeni to level from the penalty spot within three minutes after Diomansy Kamara was felled in the area.

Marcus Tudgay put Championship side Derby ahead against Premiership side Fulham on 56 minutes before striker Collins John blasted home on 71 minutes to earn his side a replay.

Robert Earnshaw grabbed the opener for West Bromwich Albion against Tottenham at The Hawthorns after 17 minutes.

But Spurs equalised through Jermain Defoe's penalty after 31 minutes to take the tie to a replay at White Hart Lane.

League One side Colchester were never in it against Premiership strugglers Blackburn Rovers who won 3-0 at Ewood Park.

Brenford and Hartlepool, also League One sides, drew 0-0 and an Ian Moore brace gave Championship side Burnley -- who took the prized scalp of Liverpool in the previous round -- a 2-0 win over Bournemouth.

Nottingham Forest beat Peterborough 1-0. Leicester came from behind to win 2-1 at Reading and West Ham drew 1-1 with Sheffield United at Upton Park.

In the two remaining fourth round fixtures to be played on Sunday, Premiership leaders Chelsea host Birmingham City at Stamford Bridge while Bolton travel to League One side Oldham, who beat Manchester City in the last round.

Hertha booters named in scandal

AFP, Berlin

Hertha Berlin are the first club to become involved in Germany's snowballing match-fixing scandal with three of their players suspected of rigging a cup match in September 2004, according to magazine Focus.

Following a lead from disgraced referee Robert Hoyzer, who admitted match-fixing on Thursday, two men were arrested in Berlin on Friday and claimed three Hertha stars were also involved in manipulating matches.

Magazine focus revealed that Angolan striker Nando Rafael, Croatian international Josip Simunic and Alexander Madlung were named by the arrested pair.

Hertha president Bernd Schiphorst insisted the club would adopt the 'innocent until proven guilty' approach.

"I am not interested whether these three players were in the cafe or not," said Schiphorst. "As far as we are concerned they are not under suspicion until some evidence is put forward."

The two defendants claim the trio helped fix a second round cup match between Hertha and Eintracht Braunschweig on September 22 of last year.

Regional side Braunschweig won 3-2 with defender Madlung scoring an own goal in the 80th minute to seal Hertha's defeat.

PRIMERA LIGA

Barca's best

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Leaders Barcelona produced a devastating second-half display to power their way to a 4-0 win over Sevilla on Saturday and inflict a first home defeat of the season on the Andalusian side.

Inspired by a rejuvenated Ronaldinho, the Catalans got the crucial breakthrough in what had been a delicately balanced encounter when leading striker Samuel Eto'o scored his 16th goal of the season with a top-class finish early in the second half.

An own goal by Julio Baptista, a clever shot by Ronaldinho and a drilled finish from Ludovic Giuly completed what was a much harder victory than the scoreline would suggest.

The win against fourth-placed Sevilla left Barca 10 points clear at the top over rivals Real Madrid, who can narrow the gap to seven if they win at basement side Numancia on Sunday.

Earlier, Atletico Madrid won their first game in five outings when they came from behind to notch a 3-1 victory at home to Albacete that took them up to ninth in the table.

Visitors Albacete scored the goal of the day as Francisco gave them the lead when he beat Atletico keeper Leo Franco from 45 metres after collecting the ball inside his own area after a corner.

But it was not as avial as a Fernando Torres penalty, a precise shot from playmaker Ariel Ibagaza and a fine header from former Albacete defender Pablo Ibanez allowed the home side to wrap up a comfortable victory before halftime.

Although Barcelona were subjected to some heavy pressure in the opening minutes they had the better chances at the start of a pulsating encounter at the Sanchez Pizjuan.

Sevilla keeper Esteban produced several excellent reflex saves to stop early efforts from Eto'o and Ronaldinho, but the home side responded well and gave the Catalans a series of scares midway through the half.

The 45,000 capacity crowd was left seething soon after when the referee turned down successive penalty appeals after Antonito appeared to have been brought down in the area and Juliano Belletti handballed as he tried to head away across.

There was no let up from either side as they continued to trade attacks for the remainder of the half, Ronaldinho almost giving the visitors the lead with a spectacular overhead kick on the stroke of halftime.

But it was Eto'o who broke the deadlock early in the second half as he made the most of his electric pace to scorch past two defenders and latch onto a superb through-pass from Ronaldinho.

The Cameroon international rounded Esteban and then threaded the ball between two diving defenders and the near post to put the visitors ahead.

Barca were gifted a second six minutes later when Brazilian striker Julio Baptista headed into his own net after he was caught off guard by a Rafael Marquez flick-on from a corner.

Sevilla were still reeling from the setback when Eto'o and Ronaldinho combined once more to deal the knockout third.

French winger Giuly had his shot blocked early in the second half but he made the most of his electric pace to scorch past two defenders and drilled an angled shot inside the far post.

Giuly wrapped up the win as he helped himself to the fourth goal 17 minutes from time when he glided onto a through ball from Xavi and drilled an angled shot inside the far post.

TOP SIX

Spanish League standings after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Barcelona	21	16	3	2	43	14	51
Real	20	13	2	5	35	15	41
Valencia	20	10	6	4	30	16	36
Sevilla	21	10	5	6	23	23	35
Espanyol	20	10	4	6	24	18	34
Betis	20	9	6	5	28	21	33



Barcelona's Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho celebrates after scoring against Sevilla at the Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in Sevilla on January 29.

PHOTO: AFP

Ronaldinho could leave!

Football

INTERNET SOURCE, Barcelona

Jose Mourinho's mantra of club spirit is not being followed at Barcelona, where a poisonous boardroom battle threatens to destabilise the Spanish leaders' season three weeks before their Champions League fixture against Chelsea.

The fall-out between club president Joan Laporta and his vice-president Sandro Rosell started off as an ideological one but has descended into a personal battle which could result in Ronaldinho leaving the club.

Rosell was upset when Laporta's self-confessed pro-Francoist brother-in-law joined the club's board, and felt that undermined the deliberate pro-Catalan direction the club were taking. As part of the organising committee for the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, Rosell is a proud Catalan whose father was Barcelona club secretary 30 years ago.

Rosell was also Nike's former chief in Spain, a position which helped him clinch the vital signing of Ronaldinho to the club. His Brazilian connections have made Laporta's coaching duo of Frank Rijkaard and his assistant Henk Ten Cate nervous: "Frank always has to

watch his back," Ten Cate was quoted as saying, "as if the team stuttered, Rosell would be out saying [former Brazil coach] Luiz Felipe Scolari must take over." Despite Barcelona's seven-point lead at the top of La Liga, Rijkaard's two-year contract expires this summer, and the two-year option is yet to be exercised.



SANDRO ROSELL

Laporta is advised and backed by Barcelona's European Cup-winning coach Johan Cruyff, publicly criticised Rosell for the influx of Brazilians and claimed Ronaldinho did not deserve to win the FIFA World Player of the Year award. "It is hard when external

interests get in the way," griped Rosell in response.

He felt even more marginalised when Laporta began a board meeting one hour early without telling him. "It is clear Joan and I have different opinions, but we've allowed small internal problems to become magnified," he said before admitting he may resign in the summer.

Ronaldinho showed where his loyalties lie, running to the presidential box and pointing at Rosell in support after scoring in last week's win over Racing Santander. That led to a report on Radio Marca claiming the Brazilian, who has been linked to Chelsea, would reconsider his future if Rosell stood down.

The biggest winners of this row could be Chelsea next month, with Rosell warning: "If we don't sort it out, ego and vanity could kill the success of this team."

Laporta meanwhile tried to assure fans that Ronaldinho will not be sold in the summer.

AC Milan and Real Madrid were reportedly ready to pounce on the superstar should Rosell be forced to leave the club at the end of the season.

"Our fans can be calm as it is our intention that Ronaldinho remains until the end of his career. There is no truth in the news that, if Rosell had to leave the leadership, Ronaldinho will also leave," said Laporta.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Ministry of Planning
 Support to ICT Task Force Programme Project
 Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Open Tender Notice

1)	Name of work	Support to ICT Task Force Programme Project (SICT).
2)	Source of fund	Allocation from the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of 2004-2005 for SICT project.
3)	Package No	BOI-4.
4)	Name of tender	Computerization of Board of Investment under National ICT Task Force decision implementation lot allocation earmarked for SICT Project.
5)	Tender No.	PD/SICT/Board of Investment-65/2005(Part)/661, dated: 05/01/2005.
6)	Eligibility of tenderer	Genuine firm and supplier and those who have up-to-date trade licence, VAT registration and TIN certificate.
7)	Date and time of selling tender document	15 th January, 2005 - 13 th February, 2005, from 12:00 noon to 3:00pm daily.
8)	Place of availability, submission and opening of tender document	Support to ICT Task Force Programme Project, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Block-13, 2 nd floor.
9)	Last date and time of selling tender document	13 th February, 2005, up to 3:00pm.
10)	Last date and time of submitting tender	14 th February, 2005, up to 12:00 hours.
11)	Date and time of opening tender	14 th February, 2005, at 12:15 hours (in presence of tenderers).
12)	Short description of work:	
	Lot No.	Description of work
		Place
		Price of each tender schedule (refundable/cash)
		Security amount (refundable) (Bank Draft, Pay-Order)
		Time limit for completion of work
		Time limit from the date of signing contract
	G-1	Supply and installation of 30 Nos. computers, 2 Nos. flat bed scanners and 8 Nos. laser printers
	G-2	Supply and installation of 31 Nos. UPS
	G-3	Supply and installation of 2 Nos. multimedia projectors
	G-4	Supply and installation of 1 No. server and 1 No. Local Area Network (LAN)
13)	If there happens to be any government holiday on the date of submitting or opening tender, then the following working day will be treated as the date of submitting and opening tender.	
14)	The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.	
15)	The said tender will be available on the notice board and the web site (www.sictgov.org) of this project.	
16)	The said tender will be conducted under single envelope system as per the Open Tendering Method of "The Public Procurement Regulations-2003".	

DFP-617-8/1
 G-116

Project Director
 Support to ICT Task Force Programme Project