

## Pele shattered

Football

AP, Sao Paulo

A teary-eyed Pele admitted Tuesday that his son was involved with a gang of cocaine traffickers arrested by police a day earlier.

"Like any father, it's sad to see your son involved with groups like these, being arrested, because he will have to suffer the consequences," Pele said at a press

Nascimento was charged with criminal association with drug traffickers. He faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

In a statement released to the press, Nascimento said he began using drugs out of curiosity after he quit professional soccer and regretted having set a bad example.

Nascimento was a second-string goalkeeper for eight years on Santos, Pele's former club. He retired from professional soccer in 1999.



PHOTO: AFP

Brazilian soccer legend Pele (2nd-L), wipes tears during a press conference about the arrest of his son, Edinho, at the Police's Narcotics Department (Denarc), in Sao Paulo, Brazil on Tuesday.

conference at the state police narcotics division headquarters.

Edson Cholbi Nascimento, 35, a former professional soccer player known as Edinho, was among about 50 people arrested Monday in the seaside city of Santos, about 45 miles southeast of Sao Paulo.

"Those who know Edinho and lived with him could hardly imagine that this would happen," Pele said. "Unfortunately, I was perhaps working too much and didn't notice. It's regrettable, because I've always fought intensely against drugs and I didn't notice this in my own house."

The same year, Nascimento was convicted of vehicular homicide for taking part in a 1992 car race on a city street that killed a motorcyclist. He was sentenced to six years in a work-release program.

Lawyers for Nascimento, who spent the night in jail and was to be transferred to a detention center later Tuesday, said they believed he would be released on bail. They also said they hoped to have the charges against him reduced to simple drug use, rather than criminal association.

## Liverpool decision Friday

AFP, Lyon

Liverpool should find out on Friday whether they will be able to defend their Champions League title next season, a UEFA spokesman said Wednesday.

"Theoretically a telephone conference of the executive committee should be held on Friday morning," spokesman William Gaillard said, adding that a decision should be released later that day.

Liverpool beat AC Milan on penalties to win an astonishing Champions League final in Istanbul on May 25.

But the Merseyside club, who finished fifth in the English Premier League, could be confined to the UEFA Cup next season unless European football's governing body amends its rules.

"It will not be a decision only about Liverpool, it will be a decision about whether or not a champion can defend their title," Gaillard told AFP.

Once a decision on the principle is reached, then the executives will examine whether more than four clubs from a single association -- not only the English one -- can play in the Champions League, Gaillard emphasised.

Subsequently the telephone meeting will decide if the decisions can be implemented for the forthcoming season, he added.

UEFA President Lennart Johansson has come out in favour of Rafael Benitez's team taking part in next season's Champions League.

## Vieri handed two-match ban

AFP, Rome

Inter Milan's Christian Vieri was given a two-match ban by the Italian football league's disciplinary council on Tuesday for hitting Reggina's Ivan Franceschini in the face on the final day of the Serie A season.

The 31-year-old initially escaped punishment for the offence but was found guilty after trial by television which showed the veteran striker lashing out with a closed fist.

The Italy international will miss Inter's first two league matches next season.

## Crespo to stay at Milan

AFP, Rome

Hernan Crespo's agent said Wednesday that the Argentine striker owned by English Premiership club Chelsea will remain on loan at AC Milan next season.

"The two clubs have reached an agreement," said Fernando Hidalgo after leaving a meeting in Milan with AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani and Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon.

"We are talking about another season on loan. This time Milan will pay his wages and he has accepted a substantial salary cut."

Crespo's desire to stay with Milan made it difficult for Chelsea to take him back to England where he found it difficult to settle down.

"Crespos wish to remain with Milan proved decisive," Hidalgo said. "Next week we will resolve everything."

Hidalgo is also acting on behalf of Crespo's Argentina international team-mate Juan Sebastian Veron, who has also been loaned out by Chelsea to Inter Milan.

Veron's future was also being discussed at another meeting with Inter officials later on Wednesday.

Crespo scored twice for Milan in the Champions League final against Liverpool but still ended up on the losing side after the Merseysiders won a penalty-shoot-out in Istanbul.



PHOTO: AFP

LET'S START PACKING FOR GERMANY: Japanese team coach Zico (R) celebrates with his players on the sideline after their 2-0 victory over North Korea in Bangkok on Wednesday.

## Japan first from Asia

AFP, Bangkok

Japan secured a spot at next year's World Cup finals with a 2-0 victory over fierce rivals North Korea on Wednesday, although celebrations were muted with the match played behind closed doors in Bangkok.

Strikers Atsushi Yanagisawa and Masashi Oguro were the heroes for Japan, securing their tickets to Germany with second-half goals that ensured their team would finish in the top two of the Asian zone's Group B.

Yanagisawa struck first with a stretching toe-poke in the 73rd minute, while Oguro capped the night with a delightful solo effort, driving down the right to beat North Korea goalkeeper Kim Myong-Gil in the 89th minute.

Although Japan still have to play one more match against Iran in August, the top two teams automatically qualify for Germany 2006. The Asian champions were the first team of any region to qualify due to the time difference.

For North Korea, winless after five qualifying matches, the loss ended any chance they had of making the World Cup.

Despite the high stakes, the match had a distinctly anti-climactic feel as it

was played in front of an empty Supachalasai Stadium as punishment for crowd trouble during North Korea's home loss to Iran in March.

North Korea's last chance at qualifying ended on an especially sour note with Kim Yong-Su given a red card in the dying minutes of the game.

Japan's coach, Brazilian legend Zico, praised his team's mental strength in overcoming the unusual circumstances.

"Of course technique and tactics are important, but the thing that was most important was we had to be strong mentally," Zico told reporters through an interpreter after the match.

Zico also admitted to concerns before the match that his players may relax too much, as a draw would have also been enough to secure a finals spot.

"It was a very difficult situation... in those type of circumstances it can be very dangerous if we lose our aggression. I kept telling our players not to lose their aggressiveness and to play offensively but also with good balance."

Zico, who has endured a barrage of criticism for recent team selections -- despite taking Japan to their second consecutive Asian title last year -- barely raised a smile during the press

conference.

However he did thank everyone involved in helping the team reach the World Cup finals.

"I want to express my gratitude to Japan's football association, the coaching staff and of course the players," he said.

"At the same time I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the supporters."

Zico also took the opportunity to justify his leadership, emphasising his team had lost just one match -- to Iran in Tehran -- out of 11 World Cup qualifying matches.

"I am very proud of this result... it's a very decent result," he said.

In this final round of qualifying, Japan kicked off their run to Germany with an injury-time 2-1 home win over North Korea on February 9, lost 2-1 to Iran on March 25 then beat Bahrain by the same 1-0 scoreline at home and away on March 30 and June 3.

Japan will be competing in their third consecutive World Cup after making the second round in front of their home fans in 2002 following their debut finals appearance in France four years earlier.

## Federer survives a scare

Tennis

AFP, Halle

World number one Roger Federer had a tough test against Sweden's Robin Soderling in the first round of the ATP grasscourt tournament here on Tuesday before triumphing 6-7, 7-6, 6-4.

Federer however, far from being unhappy, said the close game as he builds up for the defence of his Wimbledon title stood him in good stead for the rest of the tournament, adding it was not surprising because of last week's energy-sapping run to the semifinals of the clay court French Open.

The 23-year-old Federer, who won this tournament the past two years, said afterwards: "I nearly got beat but I knew the match would be hard and I am lucky to have won. In previous years, I have had practically a week to prepare but this year I only had a day and a half."

Nadal said: "I hope to be able to switch from clay to grass quickly and put in some good performances. I like playing on grass and would love to improve quickly."

The Mallorcan however did not want to comment on a possible rematch of his French Open semifinal against Federer at the same stage in this tournament.

when 20-year-old Soderling double-faulted. In the third, Federer motored to a 3-0 lead but Soderling broke back to trail 5-4 with his serve to come but another double fault on a crucial point handed Federer the match.

Federer, who won his 25th consecutive victory on grass, plays Germany's Florian Mayer in the second round.

Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero justified his invitation from the organisers by beating Belarusian Vladimir Voltchkov 6-7, 6-4, 6-4 and Fabrice Santoro earned the right to play second seed Marat Safin of Russia in his next match following a 7-5, 6-2 win over Romanian Andrei Pavel.

Spanish wonder kid and newly-crowned French Open champion Rafael Nadal opens his campaign against wild card Alexander Waske of Germany on Wednesday.

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## Ex-Kenya boss to go on trial

AFP, Nairobi

Former Kenya Cricket Association chairman Sharad Ghai is set to go on trial later this month on corruption charges, his lawyer said on Wednesday.

Ghai, whose committee was dissolved by the government on corruption allegations in March, first appeared in a Nairobi magistrate's court on April 7 charged with conspiracy to defraud the association of 3.3 million dollars from a four-nation tournament held in Kenya in 1999.

Chief Magistrate Aggrey Muchelule said the trial would start on June 22.

Four witnesses will be called to give evidence against Ghai who will be facing the charges filed by Kenyan prosecutors on recommendations from the International Cricket Council.

Several Kenyan players have already been questioned on their role in the tournament where South Africa, led by then-skipper Hansie Cronje beat India in the final.

Cronje was also a subject of a match-betting inquiry in his country and later died in a plane crash.

## Chelsea pay the highest

Football

AFP, London

English champions Chelsea, bankrolled by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, are estimated to pay their players more than any other club in the world.

The club's wage bill of 115 million pounds in 2003/04 is almost certainly the highest in world football, according to an annual financial review by consultants Deloitte and Touche.

But the 19 other Premiership clubs are, for the first time, spending less overall on players' pay - one per cent lower than in the previous year.

Even including Chelsea's 110 per cent increase in wages, the total Premiership bill went up only 7 per cent from 761 million pounds to 811 million.

It is the lowest growth rate since the Premier League was formed in 1992.

The report covers Abramovich's first full season of ownership of Chelsea, so does not cover any spending last summer by new manager Jose Mourinho.

England midfielder Frank Lampard is reported to be the highest-earner on 5 million pounds which Mourinho will top with his new five-year contract signed in May.

Deloitte sports business consultant Paul Rawnsley believes clubs are taking a more prudent approach to player wages.

"At the top clubs the biggest stars are still being very well paid - and the amount Chelsea are paying skews

the figures," he said.

"But in the middle ground, there are not the rates of increases seen in the previous 10 years - and even decreases."

"There has also been an increase in performance-related pay."

The Premiership has an advantage over European rivals when it comes to attracting and retaining top players.

"Chelsea total wages were 38 million pounds higher than the second biggest spenders, Manchester United, and almost certainly the highest football club wages bill in the world," the Deloitte report states.

In overall revenue, Premiership clubs earned 1.3 billion pounds in 2003-04 confirming it as the biggest league in Europe by a record margin.

The Premier League's income was over 500 million pounds more than Italy's Serie A, the second richest in Europe.

Manchester United were again top in terms of revenue generation with 172 million pounds - the most for any club in the world.

But Chelsea, with 144 million pounds, narrowed the gap.

Abramovich is estimated to have spent 300 million pounds on Chelsea in the last two years and he got his first return this year with the Premiership title and League Cup.

The benefits of playing in Europe were illustrated by Liverpool's estimated 30 million pound profit from their Champions League triumph last month.

## Warne the 3rd Australian

FROM PAGE 12

have played.

Rush's portrait shows Warne in cricket whites tossing up a ball in the air.

"The painting took 10 months because Shane went back to Australia. He was a good sitter. I didn't feel intimidated but I got the sense he's a great strategist," Rush said.

Adam Chadwick, curator of collections for Lord's owners Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC),

Warne has retired from one-day international cricket and so will not be in the Australia side for Monday's Twenty20 international against England at Hampshire's Rose Bowl ground and the subsequent pre-Ashes limited overs games against Bangladesh and England.

But he could lead Hampshire in Saturday's one-day warm-up game against England.

## Chance

FROM PAGE 12

the match.

On December 26 last year a Tsunami tidal wave which affected coastlines throughout the Indian sub-continent caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands as well as massive destruction of homes and property.

**TEAMS FOR THE MATCH INTERNATIONAL XI** (one to be added): Graeme Smith, Brian Lara (captain), Stephen Fleming, Andy Flower, Graham Thorpe, Chris Cairns, Shaun Pollock, Heath Streak, Shane Warne, Makhaya Ntini Manager Alec Stewart.

**ASIA XI** (one to be added): Marvan Atapattu, Sanath Jayasuriya, Rahul Dravid (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Mohammed Kaif, Kumar Sangakkara, Irfan Pathan, Chaminda Vass, Harbhajan Singh, Muttiah Muralitharan Manager Wasim Raja.

said there was a simple reason for the commission.

"He (Warne) is one of the greats of the game, the leading Test wicket-taker.

"Unfortunately, not long after the commission, he had his break (a one-year drugs ban) but now he's back and bowling as well as ever."

"I'm not sure if we want to give him the psychological lift of seeing his portrait as he goes out for the first Ashes Test (on July 21)," joked Chadwick when asked if the portrait would be hung in the Long Room.

In 2000 Warne was named as one of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack's five cricketers of the 20th Century.

In total he has now taken 583 Test wickets at an average of 25.51 in 123 Tests.

**Referee:** Ramkrishna Ghosh.



PHOTO: MCC

## Farashganj

FROM PAGE 12

(Farashganj) and Farid, Jala (Dipali).

**TEAMS FARASHGANJ:** Zia, Khaled, Scyllia, Faisal, Arup, Rony, Adafa, Kabir, Amirul, Walid and Felix (Palash).

**DIPALI:** Titu, Apu, Domba, Shahin, Tarek, Rajib (Biplab), Farid (Tajul), Chanchal (Daulat), Eutaka, Idris and Jala.

**Referee:** Ramkrishna Ghosh.

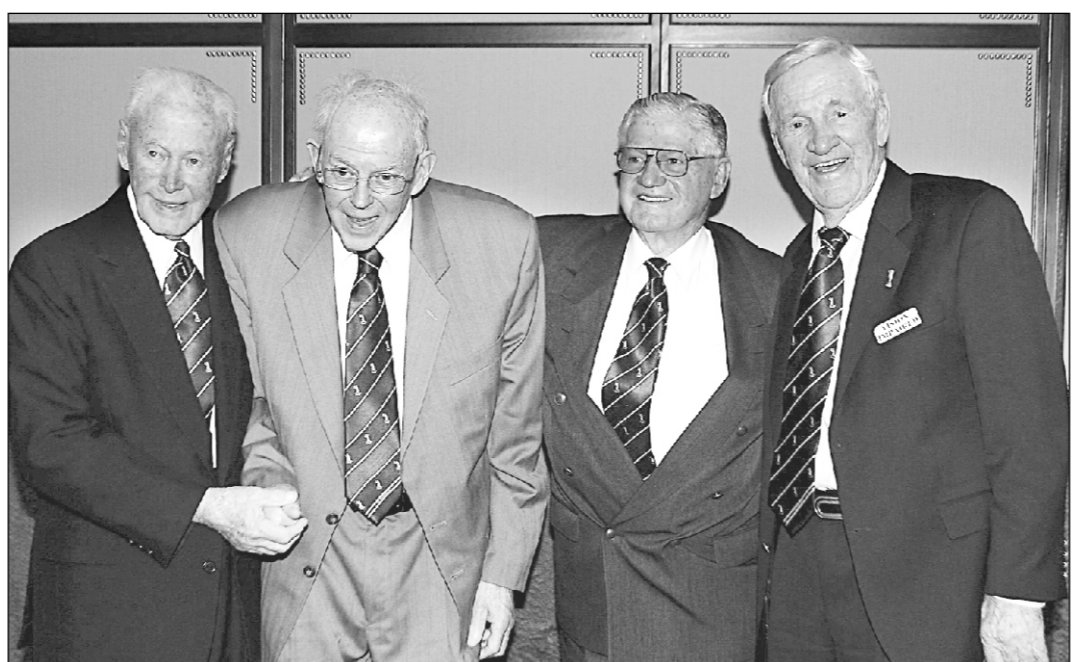


PHOTO: AFP

LAST OF THE INVINCIBLES: Surviving members of the 1948 Australian cricket team, captained for the last time by Sir Donald Bradman, (L to R) opening batsman Bill Brown, fast bowler Bill Johnston, batsman Neil Harvey and all-rounder Sam Loxton reunite in Sydney on Wednesday for a fund raising dinner. The Invincibles, the greatest sporting team Australia ever produced, did not lose a game during their 34-match Ashes tour of England in the spring and summer of 1948.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Old photo hue

6 Price ceiling

9 Old-tattooed word

12 Garde bravo

13 Bullring Latin word

15 "Lost Horizon" actress

16 Patterned flooring

18 Formed ranks

20 Drive Feathery accessory

23 New Guinea port

24 Trust-worthy

25 Contemporary of Horace

27 Venomous snake

29 Character

31 More profound

35 Selassie worshipper

37 Knight's wife

38 Sabrina's cat

41 It could be spare!

43 Massage playwright

44 Commotions

45 Straight-forward

47 Root vegetable

49 Lost cause

52 B&B

53 The works

54 Convention site

55 Anonymous John setting

56 Thickness

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

BARBARA OAM SCOT  
ERIC ADA HALE  
REAR SOS ASTIA  
GALLOTT GAPTOR  
SKIT PEA  
PETS RETURNED  
AGE ORY EVA  
GOLDSNAP STEW  
ERE ELM  
FACIING COARISE  
ORAN AMAREAD  
RISKLESTANG  
MATS ANT SLAY

**DOWN**

19 Minnesota's

10,000

21 --

22 Eventual aves

24 "Bus Stop"

26 Coercion s tale

28 Firefighter Red

30 Aries

32 Co-worker

33 Ostrich's kin

34 CSA name

10 End of ancient Greece?

11 Horror-movie setting

40 Michaels of "SNL"

42 Sired

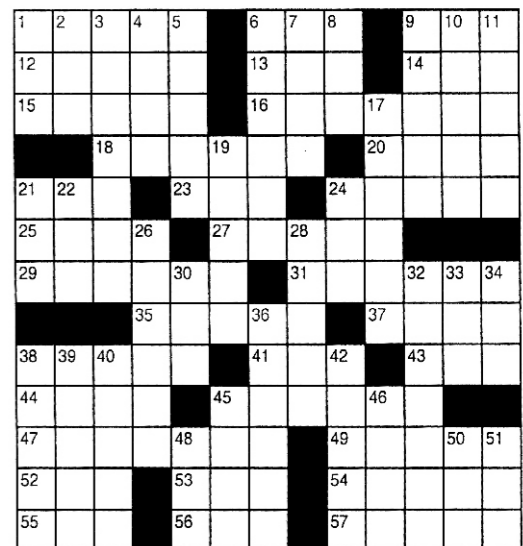
45 Spice rack item

46 Mrs. Julius Dithers

48 Siesta

50 Lineman

51 Bob's longtime cohort



## CRYPTOQUIP

V P Y H E W R B C C X W X , V B  
W P E W - N B K B V H I G Y H U G U  
I U K H Y X G B W X G G B G N X

Q B B G B Q G N X R C I U U ?  
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: BECAUSE I'M EATING SUCH A CRUNCHY CEREAL, COULD YOU SAY I'M CREATING SOUND BITES?

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: Q equals F

The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.