

Robinho's fitting home farewell

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Robinho celebrated his last home game for Santos by converting two penalties in a 4-3 Brazilian championship win over Figueirense on Sunday.

The Brazil international was greeted by dozens of children as he took the field for his last match at the Vila Belmiro stadium before he completes his move to Spanish side Real Madrid.

His teammates lifted him into the air as he celebrated his first goal while he kneeled and kissed the pitch after converting the second.

Santos raced to a 4-0 lead in half hour with Robinho's two penalties and goals by Elton, who fired home a rebound after Ricardinho's shot hit the crossbar, and former Barcelona and Olympiakos midfielder Giovanni.

But the Brazilian champions suffered a fright as struggling Figueirense replied with three goals in 13 minutes after halftime from Cleber, Michel Bastos and Edmundo.

Cleber also hit the crossbar with a header in the 77th minute.

"I'm very happy," said Robinho, who has one more game to play for Santos away to Paysandu on Wednesday.

"I wanted to bid farewell to the Vila with a win."

Santos moved up to fourth in the table with 36 points from 21 games.

Corinthians, who have 39 points, stayed top as the competition reached its halfway stage after a late equaliser gave them a 1-1 home draw against second-placed Goias, who are two points behind.

HOOKES KILLING Doorman acted in self-defence

AFP, Melbourne

A doorman charged with killing prominent Australian cricket coach David Hookes outside a Melbourne pub claimed in court Monday that he had acted in self-defence.

Zdravko Micevic, 23, went on trial charged with manslaughter and assault over the January 2004 incident outside the pub in Melbourne's Saint Kilda neighborhood. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Hookes, 48, a former Test batsman and coach of the Victoria state team at the time, died of head injuries a day after being punched by Micevic outside the pub, where members of the Victoria team were celebrating a victory.

Defence lawyers told the jury Monday that Hookes and his friends acted aggressively when told to leave the pub at closing time and that the coach was forcibly ejected from the building by security guards.

The prosecution alleges Hookes then walked away from the pub and had his hands by his sides when he was punched by Micevic, causing him to hit his head on the road.

But Micevic's lawyer said Monday that his client, a former amateur boxer, had acted in self-defence after Hookes punched him twice.

Monday's session before the Victoria state Supreme Court was taken up with opening arguments. The first witness will give evidence on Tuesday.

Where hope

FROM PAGE 12 team will be reminded about, is that instead of crowds numbering tens of thousands, they will note spectators in mere hundreds, scattered among the small stands and on banks below the trees.

There has been some confusion here whether India will arrive in Harare at mid-day tomorrow Tuesday, onwarding to Bulawayo from there, or fly directly from Johannesburg.

Either way they will have little time to prepare for the imminent tri-nation tournament against the Kiwis and Zimbabwe.

The former have been here three weeks adjusting to climate, environment and pitches. They have also enjoyed sampling the magnificent Victoria Falls and played some golf (rather badly apparently) among the locals.

The New Zealanders have also showed strength in depth on the cricket field, both batting and bowling, not least the spectacular recovery of Shane Bond following 27 months out of the game with back problems. Now they have welcomed one-day specialists including Chris Cairns and Craig McMillan to the squad.

India will go right into the deep end against them at Bulawayo on Friday. It will be quite a baptism to the tournament.

At least they will be able to make some rapid assessments by watching the first match on Wednesday between the home side and the Kiwis.

These two sides are playing a glorified match Monday following "kill time" practising on the Queens Sports Club grounds.

This time in the year in Zimbabwe is inclined to be windy and warm, so some great cricket is in prospects.



PHOTO: REUTERS

(L) Fans of Santos watch as their star Robinho (R) waves goodbye after playing his last home match in the Brazilian Championship before his departure for Spain's Real Madrid, at Santos on Sunday. The banner reads 'Robinho, you will be in our hearts, always'.

PREMIERSHIP

Fortune favours Chelsea



AFP, London

Didier Drogba overshadowed debutant Michael Essien to poach a fluke winner for Chelsea's first league victory over Arsenal in 10 years in Sunday's Premiership clash at Stamford Bridge.

Drogba once again out-muscled Philippe Senderos - as he did twice at Cardiff's Millennium stadium in the Community Shield - to latch onto a Frank Lampard free-kick and bundle the ball past Jens Lehmann.

The goal owed little to Drogba's skill or technique, though, as it bounced off his knee as he tried to control it in full stride in the 73rd minute.

The 1-0 victory gave the reigning champions an early advantage over the 2004 champions in the race for this year's title.

"It's fantastic and it's important," said Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho.

"We beat our opponents for the title. We have won against them twice in 16 days - it's important but it's one more more game.

"If you lose this game it's not the end of the world, if you win you're not the best team in the world - so you have to keep calm.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger bemoaned his team's cutting edge.

"I feel our physical pressure was too weak, therefore we did not score," said the Frenchman.

"We had enough possession to score goals and we need to be more efficient.

Wenger had looked determined not to lose his 500th match in charge of the Gunners, opting for a conservative approach.

He employed a five-man midfield with Pires operating in an advanced role to support lone front man Thierry Henry, with Freddie Ljungberg and Alexander Hleb probing from the flanks.

But the French handler was forced into a change after 25 minutes as Ljungberg limped off to be replaced by Robin van Persie who went to play alongside Henry allowing Pires to revert to right midfield.

Mourinho played the in-form Heman Crespo up front instead of Drogba but Essien had to be content with a place on the bench - more than was offered to Ricardo Carvalho who paid for his midweek dissent with a place in the stands.

The two London giants created a glut of chances in the first three minutes.

First, Damien Duff scampered

down the right on to an incisive Lampard pass only to be beaten to the ball by goalkeeper Jens Lehmann.

From the resulting corner, John Terry rose highest to power a header goalwards that beat Lehmann but not Ljungberg standing by the back post.

Next it was Arsenal's turn to threaten with Henry placing a deliberate curling shot from 20 yards just past the post after neat build-up play.

The match was briefly interrupted by a streaker who went through a whole gymnastic routine and hugged Ljungberg and Lauren before the dozing stewards reacted to his presence.

Chelsea survived a penalty appeal when Pires' corner bounced up and hit Lampard's arm but referee Graham Poll was unsighted at the far end of the penalty area.

Right at the end of the first half,

Just as he did a week ago, Mourinho wasted little time in trying to find a goal, swapping the ineffectual Crespo with Drogba at half-time.

Mourinho introduced Essien for his debut, along with Shaun Wright-Phillips with Eidur Gudjohnsen and Robben making way.

Federer gives Roddick another masterclass

AFP, Cincinnati

Roger Federer crushed Andy Roddick for the sixth time in a row, winning a re-run of the past two Wimbledon finals 6-3, 7-5 here Sunday in the final of the 2.45-million-dollar ATP Cincinnati Masters.

The Swiss top seed's 73-minute victory was his 22nd straight triumph in a final, a run dating to 2003 in Gstaad when he lost that final to Jiri Novak.

Federer owns an 18th match win streak, standing 64-3 on the year. He has not lost since a French Open semi-final setback against Rafael Nadal on June 13.

This was his first event since his Wimbledon title and his only US Open tune-up.

BFF calls up

FROM PAGE 12 Turjo (Dhaka), Asha (Kulna), Faisal (Kulna), Sarhan (Narayanganj), Mobarak (Narsingdi), Rana, Manik and Rony (BKSP); **forwards:** Jahir (Satkhira), Tauhid (Chittagong), Chongmin (Cox's Bazar), Jewel Rana (Narayanganj), Sabbir and Sabuj (BKSP).

Afro-Asia

FROM PAGE 12 three-year sponsorship had been secured for the Afro Asia Cup.

The next tournament will be played in Asia. Profits will go to cricket development in the two countries, apart from a 10 per cent share which will go to sight-related charities.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard in the third and final match of the Afro-Asia Cup between an Africa XI and an Asia XI at Kingsmead on Sunday:

AFRICA XI: 106 all out in 32.5 overs (Pollock 44 not out, Streak 14, Zaheer 3-21, Akhtar 2-16)

ASIA XI

Sehwag b Steyn 5
Afriidi c Streak b Pollock 0
Sangakkara not out 1
Jayawardene not out 0
Extras: (nb-1, w-1) 2
Total: (For 2 wkts in 3 overs) 8
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-7
Did not bat: Youhana, Inzamam, Razaq, Zaheer, Akhtar, Muralitharan, Nehra (sub)

Substituted: Ashrafur

Bowler O M R W
Pollock 2 0 6 1
Steyn 1 0 2 0

Result: No result -- rain and series shared 1-1.
Man-of-the-match: Shoaib Akhtar.
Man-of-the-series: Zaheer Khan.

Beauty

FROM PAGE 12 looked toward her impending coronation. It has been an amazing two years. It has been all hard work and dedication. The achievement is amazing."

Belgian Kim Clijsters, who defeated compatriot Justine Henin-Hardenne in the Toronto final on Sunday, climbed four places to fourth in the rankings, behind now number two Davenport and France's Amelie Mauresmo.

Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova, struggling as her defence of her US Open title looms, fell a spot to fifth ahead of compatriot Elena Dementieva. Henin-Hardenne dropped two places to seventh, while Australian Open champion Serena Williams fell one spot from seventh to eighth.

To finish off the top 10, Russian Nadia Petrova and American Venus Williams swapped places, Petrova stepping up to ninth and Williams dropping a notch to 10th.

TOP TEN

Player	Points
Maria Sharapova	4452
Lindsay Davenport	4300
Amelie Mauresmo	3718
Kim Clijsters	3179
Svetlana Kuznetsova	3168
Elena Dementieva	2987
Justine Henin-Hardenne	2941
Serena Williams	2845
Nadia Petrova	2720
Venus Williams	2658

Tait's hostile reminder



AFP, London

Australian quick Shaun Tait hopes his hostile spell in the drawn tour match against Northamptonshire will be enough to give him an Ashes Test debut against England on Thursday.

The 22-year-old had an eventful day at Wantage Road against the English county side taking two wickets and forcing opener Tim Roberts to retire with blood pouring from a gash above his left eyebrow.

Tait finished the contest with a wound of his own when Ben Phillips unleashed a booming drive which struck him on his knee causing him to collapse to the ground.

He left the field and is assured the bruising will not effect his chances of an international bow in the fourth Test at Trent Bridge starting Thursday.

"It was pretty painful for a while but

it is not too bad now," said Tait who has been widely tipped to replace the misfiring Jason Gillespie in the Australian team which is locked at 1-1 against England in after three of the five Tests.

"There will probably be a couple of days of soreness but I should be alright. The boys were taking the micky out of me because it was nothing serious but there was a lot of pain for five minutes.

"Matthew Hayden kicked me on the back and told me to get up -- they are tough old blokes I suppose!"

Tait tempted Usman Afzaal into an ugly pull and knocked out David Sales' leg-stump to finish with two for 52.

"I felt pretty good, there was some decent pace but a couple more wickets would have been handy," said the South Australian who is vying with Michael Kasprovicz for the third seamer's place in the Test team.

"It would be everything for me to

play for my country, just like it would be for any young cricketer. One thing I do know is that I am ready for that sort of cricket; if the opportunity comes up I am definitely there to stick my hand up and bowl well."

An ability to reverse swing the ball might be in Tait's favour, given the current trend for taking wickets in the Ashes, although those to have witnessed his short-lived spell at Durham last summer -- he was sent home after just two fruitless County Championship games in which he was plagued by no-balls and went at nearly 10-an-over -- might not consider him a valid threat.

However, within a week of being back in Adelaide the problem was fixed and he claimed 65 wickets in the Pura Cup upon his return to action, the second-best return in the history of Australia's first-class competition, to earn his place on this tour.

Benitez not worried



AFP, Paris

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez is one match away from leading the Anfield giants back into the Champions League group phase but he still hasn't solved his striker dilemma.

The European champions entertain CSKA Sofia at Anfield on Tuesday in the second leg of their third round Champions League qualifier defending a 3-1 lead but will without leading scorer Steven Gerrard.

The club captain picked up a calf muscle injury against Sunderland on Saturday.

Gerrard has poached the limelight away from the team's forwards with six goals from seven games which is worrying for Benitez who has a pool of six strikers at his disposal.

Czech forward Milan Baros has played little part in Liverpool's new campaign and has been linked with a move to either Aston Villa or French champions Lyon.

New signing Peter Crouch picked up a hamstring injury in Liverpool's 2-0

win over Kaunas in the last round remains sidelined; Neil Mellor is also out injured.

Fernando Morientes has scored only twice and Frenchman Florent Sinama Pongolle has hardly been used.

Djibril Cisse is the club's most successful forward so far with five goals, but if Anfield's former golden boy

FIXTURES

Tuesday's Champions League 3rd qualifying round second leg matches (1st leg scores shown):

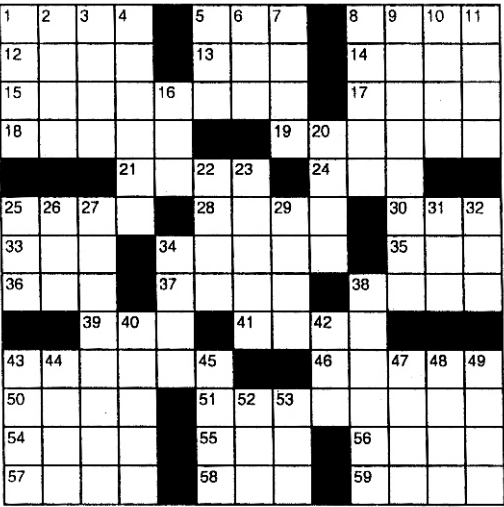
Monaco (FRA) v Real Betis (ESP) 0-1
Panathinaikos (GRE) v Wisla Krakow (POL) 1-3
Udinese (ITA) v Sporting Lisbon (POR) 1-0
Thun (SUI) v Malmo (SWE) 1-0
Partizan Belgrade (SEM) v Armedia Bratislava (SVK) 0-0
Rosenborg (NOR) v Steaua Bucharest (ROM) 1-1
Lokomotiv Moscow (RUS) v Rapid Vienna (AUT) 1-1
Liverpool (ENG) v CKSA Sofia (BUL) 3-1

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Composer
Schirfin
5 The whole
enchilada
8 "Mamma
Mial"
inspiration
12 "____"
Rhythm"
13 Narcus'
org.
14 Prompted
15 Grow and
grow
17 Salts' sch.
18 Restrained
19 Make a
fuss
21 Assess
24 Ump
25 Indy
circuits
28 — Stanley
Gardner
30 Mischief-
maker
33 Flightless
bird
34 Joplin or
Ian
35 Carnival
site
36 Uno +
uno
37 "It's — to
Tell a Lie"
38 Bloke
39 Chronic
upstager
41 Adams or
McClurg
43 Just
look
around
46 Har-
vester's
reward
50 Stromboli
spillage
51 Famous
rock
quartet?
54 Acknowl-
edge
55 Coll.
transcript
stat
56 Black Sea
gulf
57 Roll-call
reply
58 Feedbag
morsel
59 AMEX
counter-
part
61 Owl's
perch
62 Oaxaca
water
63 ABC
island
drama
4 Unto
whom
to do
5 Ruckus
6 Writer
Buscaglia
edge
7 Easter
entree
8 Sharp
9 Trouble in
the Aussie
wilder-
ness
10 Part of
N.B.
11 Hebrew
month
16 Vitamin
no.
20 Mined-
over
matter
22 Afternoon
-socials
23 Bert's
roomie
25 Started
26 I love,
to Livy
27 Easy
target
29 "Swedish
Nightin-
gale"
31 Hr.
fraction
32 Cauldron
34 Predica-
ments
38 42-
Down's
language
40 Cognizant
42 "____"
bin ein
Berliner"
43 Not great
44 Four-star
review
45 "Therefore
7 Slimy
46 One side
of the
argument
49 Golfer
Ballesteros
52 "____ Lazy
River"
53 Took a
meeting

Solution time: 21 mins.

DOWN
1 Owl's
perch
2 Oaxaca
water
3 ABC
island
drama
4 Unto
whom
to do
5 Ruckus
6 Writer
Buscaglia
edge
7 Easter
entree
8 Sharp
9 Trouble in
the Aussie
wilder-
ness
10 Part of
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11 Hebrew
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46 One side
of the
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49 Golfer
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52 "____ Lazy
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meeting



CRYPTOQUIP

R F H S V P F H S X K I D I S M H F

S G X S V ' A W M F R R X H L

C X P I V Z F R G D M K A K D C F :

" Q X H W R Q D Z S G F P P D Z L ."
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN THE ANDROID CEASED TO FUNCTION NORMALLY, IT UNDERWENT A BASIC FRONTAL ROBOTOMY.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: R equals S

The Cryptquip 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.



PHOTO: COURTESY

National captain Habibul Bashar (C) and vice-captain Khaled Mashud (L) receiving a crest on behalf of the national cricket team from Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh president Helaluddin Khan Liton (2nd from L) and general secretary Naimur Rahman (3rd from L) and former Bangladesh Cricket Board general secretary Rais Uddin Ahmed at a function on Saturday.