

## Chelsea in breach of FA drugs rules

AFP, London

Chelsea have been charged with breaching Football Association rules for carrying out private drugs tests on some of their players.

The charges from English football's governing body were made in connection with testing carried out by the club on July 12, 2004 - shortly before Romanian international Adrian Mutu tested positive for using cocaine.

Mutu had his contract at Chelsea terminated and was subsequently banned for seven months.

Jose Mourinho, who took over as manager a month before the tests were carried out, has admitted that Mutu was deliberately targeted by the club because of suspicions he was using recreational drugs.

Such testing however is in breach of the FA's Doping Control Regulations, which include a paragraph that states: "The independent private testing/screening of players by clubs, club officials or any other person subject to Football Association Rules is prohibited."

The regulation states that such testing "will be regarded as conduct that would interfere with the Football Association's Doping Control Programme ... and penalties may be imposed accordingly."

Chelsea, who have been given until September 23 to respond to the charges, said they would defend their actions.

"The club feels that it has done nothing morally wrong," it said in a statement.

Chelsea confirmed that the tests were directly related to the Mutu case but revealed that the July 12 controls had proved negative.

"Subsequently, the same player failed an FA approved drugs test for cocaine and his contract with Chelsea was terminated," the statement added.

"During the hearing into this failed test he also admitted to taking this Class A drug on several occasions."

"Chelsea is absolutely committed to the fight against drugs in football. We believe we have demonstrated this by our actions and would never attempt to contravene any rules in order to cover-up drugs in sport."

"We have made it clear publicly that we will adopt a zero tolerance policy to anybody who fails a drug test and rejects the chance of help and rehabilitation when offered by the club."

## Openers defy

FROM PAGE 12  
singlehandedly on Friday when he dismissed five England batsmen, including left-handed opener Andrew Strauss for 129 made in nearly six hours.

Warne's haul gave him 34 wickets for the series, equalling his best for a Test campaign in England, in the 1993 six-match encounter.

England, who began Friday on 319 for seven, saw their last three wickets add 48 runs.

A total of 400 appeared to be the bare minimum on such a good surface. But South Africa made 484 in the first innings at The Oval two years ago and still lost by nine wickets.

However, Australia's best first innings total in the series so far had been the 308 they made in England's two-run second Test win at Edgbaston.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the fifth Test between England and Australia at The Oval on Friday:

**ENGLAND:** First innings (overnight 319-7)

Trescothick c Hayden b Warne	43
Strauss c Katich b Warne	129
Vaughan c Clarke b Warne	11
Bell lbw b Warne	0
Pietersen b Warne	14
Flintoff c Warne b McGrath	72
Collingwood lbw b Tait	7
G Jones b Lee	25
Giles lbw b Warne	32
Hoggard c Martyn b McGrath	2
Hamison not out	20
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, w-1, nb-7)	18
Total: (All out in 105.3 overs)	373
Fall of wickets: 1-82, 2-102, 3-104, 4-131, 5-274, 6-289, 7-297, 8-325, 9-345.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
McGrath	27	5	72	2
Lee	23	3	94	1
Tait	15	1	61	1
Warne	37.3	5	122	6
Katich	3	0	14	0

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings

Langer not out	75
Hayden not out	32
Extras: (lb-2, nb-3)	5
Total: (For no loss in 33 overs)	112
To bat: Ponting, Martyn, Clarke, Katich, Gilchrist, Warne, Lee, McGrath, Tait.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hamison	8	1	21	0
Hoggard	7	1	21	0
Flintoff	7	2	20	0
Giles	7	0	31	0
Collingwood	4	0	17	0

**Toss:** England  
**Umpires:** Billy Bowden (NZL), Rudi Koertzen (RSA)  
**TV umpire:** Jeremy Lloyds (ENG)  
**Match referee:** Ranjan Madugalle (SRI)



Real Madrid's new Spanish signing Sergio Ramos poses for photographers as he is presented to the press at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on Thursday.

## PREVIEW: PRIMERA LIGA

# Ramos straightaway?

### Football

AFP, Madrid

Having splashed out 27 million euros on Spanish international Sergio Ramos last week, Real Madrid fans are wondering whether he will be thrown in at the deep end against Celta Vigo on Saturday.

The former Sevilla central defender is the first domestic player signed during the era of president Florentino Perez, who is now in his sixth season in charge, and Ramos knows that all eyes are on him.

"Let no one doubt that I've come here to work hard and sacrifice myself so that the dreams of the supporters and the club can be realised. I know I have got to prove myself and earn my place," said Ramos on Thursday.

Ramos, still only 19, didn't play any part in Spain's disappointing 1-1 draw with Serbia-Montenegro on Wednesday and that fact will probably encourage Real coach Wanderley Luxemburgo to name him to the starting line up.

If Ramos, who takes over the number four shirt last worn three seasons ago by Real icon Fernando Hierro, then it means either Francisco Paven or Ivan Helguera will be reduced to sitting among the substitutes.

Luxemburgo has a number of dilemmas to resolve ahead of the visit of Celta Vigo, and not just at the back.

With question marks over the fitness of Ronaldo, Luxemburgo could decide to start with his Brazilian compatriot Robinho, who

was in fine form on his debut for Real during the final 20 minutes of their 2-1 win at Cadiz two weeks ago.

Another area that may require some attention from Luxemburgo is the midfield as Zinedine Zidane limped off 20 minutes before the end of France's 1-0 win in Ireland and the former World Player of the Year is also doubtful.

Newly-promoted Celta come to the Spanish capital full of confidence after a year away from the top flight.

The Galicians were impressive 2-0 winners over Malaga on the opening weekend of the season and their own new Brazilian striker Fernando Baiano, who scored on his debut for the club, could turn out to be the bargain buy of the season.

Another man fully motivated at the thought of playing in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium is former Real midfielder Antonio Nunez.

Nunez, Madrid born-and-bred, was a graduate of Real's reserves and made a handful of appearances for the first team two seasons ago only to be discarded and used as a makeweight in the deal that brought Michael Owen to the Spanish capital at the start of last season.

Reigning Spanish champions Barcelona play host to Real Mallorca on Sunday and have a lot to prove after their lacklustre start to the season when they were held 0-0 at Alaves.

"Life is always difficult the season after you have won a championship. This is going to be a tough year. It's absolutely vital that we beat Mallorca," said Barcelona's Dutch

defender Giovanni van Bronckhorst earlier this week.

Mallorca, however, appear to have already started quaking in their boots at the thought of visiting Barca's ever-intimidating Nou Camp.

"Barcelona have got many options going forward. They've got probably the best attack in Europe," commented Mallorca defender Fernando Navarro on Thursday.

Navarro joined Mallorca this summer from Barca and will have certainly briefed his new team mates on the problems of containing his former colleagues Ronaldinho and Samuel Eto'o.

Despite the spotlight being shone on the big two in Spanish football, the actual Spanish league leaders after the first week are Athletic Bilbao, thanks to a 3-0 win over Real Sociedad.

Athletic, who will try to maintain pole position at Getafe on Sunday, are the only other team apart from Real Madrid and Barcelona to be ever present in the Spanish first division across its 75 editions.

FIXTURES
Saturday (kick off times in GMT): Real Madrid v Celta Vigo (1800), Real Betis v Osasuna (2000), Deportivo La Coruna v Atletico Madrid (2000)
Sunday: Barcelona v Real Mallorca (1700), Getafe v Athletic Bilbao (1700), Racing Santander v Cadiz (1700), Real Sociedad v Alaves (1700), Villarreal v Sevilla (1700), Malaga v Espanyol (1900), Real Zaragoza v Valencia (1900)

## PREVIEW: PREMIERSHIP

# A tale of the same city

### Football

AFP, London

Alex Ferguson admired Stuart Pearce sufficiently as a player to try and sign him for Manchester United.

And the Scot has been equally impressed with the way the former England left-back Pearce has acquitted himself since slipping into the manager's chair at Manchester City.

In the build-up to Saturday's Manchester derby, Ferguson was exactly like that, I think his team is mirroring Stuart Pearce as the player he was."

"Everyone remembers Stuart Pearce as a determined, aggressive player, who played with great heart and enthusiasm that gave him a great career in the game," Ferguson said.

"And I think his team are playing exactly like that, I think his team is mirroring Stuart Pearce as the player he was."

The steel Pearce has injected into City's soul has been reflected in a 12-match unbeaten run and an encouraging start to the new season that has left them sitting second in the table with three wins and a draw from four matches so far.

United have won all three of their matches so something has to give when Pearce takes his side to Old Trafford on Saturday for his first Manchester derby as a manager.

And while Ferguson may hold all the aces in terms of experience, the younger man believes it is United that will be feeling the pressure as they seek to prevent Chelsea from opening up an early lead they way they did on their way to the title last season.

"We'll be treating it the same as every other game, we'll have to, but it's a derby game and we'll be desperate to win it," he said.

"They know full well with their aspirations of winning the league that they can't lose too many if they want to stay on Chelsea's coat tails." Having served as City's head coach under Keegan, Pearce is reveling in the pressure that comes

with his current role.

"In some ways I found it a little bit frustrating being a coach and not being the one with the final say - now it is my responsibility and my head on the block I do quite enjoy that in a perverse sort of way."

Pearce has injured duo Robbie Fowler and Sylvain Distin available after they came through a reserves match in midweek while United winger Cristiano Ronaldo is expected to miss the game following the death of his father on Tuesday.

United's hopes of closing the gap on Chelsea at the top will not be encouraged by the fact that Sunderland, the visitors to Stamford Bridge on Saturday, have lost all four matches since their return to the top flight.

Chelsea will be without injured skipper John Terry, although that could actually be a blessing in disguise for manager Jose Mourinho as it gives him a chance to appease Ricardo Carvalho, who has made no secret of his frustration at a lack of first team chances so far this season.

Mourinho will also have Arjen Robben available again, the Dutch winger having returned to action for Holland in midweek, after missing Chelsea's last Premiership outing, the controversial 2-0 win over Tottenham at the end of last month.

Arsenal centreback Sol Campbell is nearing full fitness after recovering from a calf problem. But Gunners boss Arsene Wenger is unlikely to risk him in Saturday's clash with Middlesbrough at the Riverside.

"Sol is back to full fitness - he has had two reserve games now, so there is no problem, but he is maybe not competitively fit yet," Wenger said.

"I have not made up my mind completely, but I don't think I will play him on Saturday."

Wenger was relieved to report that all his internationals had returned from action for their countries without any injuries.

"But I will rotate the squad a little bit because some have played two international games. Also we'll be playing on Wednesday next week and then the Monday after that."

Thierry Henry, France's match-winner against Ireland on Wednesday, needs one more goal for his club to equal Ian Wright's Arsenal record of 185 goals.

"For me, Ian Wright was a legend and still is a legend, so to beat his record would be something really amazing," the Frenchman said.

"But I don't want to speak too soon because things in football can happen really quickly, so I just want to concentrate and keep scoring goals for my team."

FIXTURES
(1400 GMT unless stated)
Saturday: Birmingham v Charlton, Chelsea v Sunderland, Everton v Portsmouth, Manchester Utd v Manchester City, Middlesbrough v Arsenal (1615 GMT), Newcastle v Fulham, Tottenham v Liverpool, West Brom v Wigan
Sunday: Bolton v Blackburn (1500 GMT)
Monday: West Ham v Aston Villa (1900 GMT)

## Scolari's admiration for Ronaldo

BBC ONLINE

Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has paid tribute to Cristiano Ronaldo for playing in a World Cup qualifier just a day after the death of his father.

The Manchester United winger helped secure a 0-0 draw in Moscow to leave Portugal one win away from the finals.

"Cristiano had the support of the whole team in this important moment of his life," said Scolari.

Ronaldo was given time off from United's pre-season tour to be with his father, who had been ill for some time.

Portugal now need to win either of their final two home games to finish top of Group Three. They host Liechtenstein in Aveiro on 8 October and Latvia in Porto four days later.

## It's all to play-off

FROM PAGE 12  
previous fixture against Mukti-jodha, Munnan left the Brothers defenders in his wake as he breached the off-side trap on a Ronny cross and placed the ball between the legs of onrushing goalkeeper Mohammad Ali for the equaliser.

That spoiled Edward's wonder strike in the first half when he unleashed a stupendous right-footed volley from the top of the box on a Parvez Babu's cross which gave Biplob under the Mohammedan bar no chance. It was Edward's 12th goal in the league.

After hitting the equaliser, Munna almost became a cult hero for the Black and White faithful when his inch perfect cross was headed on to the side post by experienced striker Nakib.

Captain Alfaz Ahmed also rued near misses in the last half hour.

"We were down to ten men but luck was not on our side. However, this draw I think gives us the edge in the play-off," said the ace striker.

Brothers players and officials were still livid with the Parvez Babu incident and did not speak to the media after the match.

Red Card: Parvez Babu (Brothers). Yellow cards: Masud Rana (Brothers), ArmanAziz (Mohammedan). **TEAMS**  
**BROTHERS:** Ali, Parvez, Jewel Rana, Sujun, Masud Rana, Inani, Abul (Liton), Pranotosh, Siraji, Edward (Tapu) and Emily (Monwar). **MOHAMMEDAN:** Biplob, Nazul, Hasan, Odaf, Ronny (Nakib), Arman, Asad (Khokon) (Sentu), Faisal, Munna, Alfaz and Donald. **Referee:** Mansoor Azad.

## ICC to examine

FROM PAGE 12  
rules, he added that it was "not within the spirit of the game".

Durham's Pratt was on the field to replace the injured bowler Simon Jones, but Ponting feels England have manipulated the current International Cricket Council (ICC) regulations to their own advantage.

England's bowlers have regularly left the field for short periods after spells, although coach Duncan Fletcher has insisted the breaks are merely to answer calls of nature.

Speed stressed Michael Vaughan and England had "done nothing wrong" by using substitutes during the Ashes.

"I think Ricky Ponting has a point there -- we need to be careful that we keep it under control, define what's acceptable and the captains buy into that," he said.

England substitute fielders have effected more Test dismissals than any other team over the past four years.

In 52 Tests since September 2001, England subs have dismissed 18 batsmen -- in contrast to four by Australia.

## Ebrahim ton

FROM PAGE 12  
game, being able to take his time, which is his natural style. He bailed the hosts out of a tight spot with a 94-run sixth wicket stand with Sean Williams who made only 10, and later he had an entertaining unbeaten 80-run partnership with Keith Dabengwa, who finished the day on 40.

India fielded their regular Test squad with the exception of Harbhajan Singh and Ashish Nehra, who returned home with a muscle problem in his buttocks and was replaced by Ajit Agarkar.

## Kartik joins

FROM PAGE 12  
Kartik has taken 278 first-class wickets during his career at a cost of only 26 runs each, and has played eight Tests and 19 one-day internationals.

He is no stranger to Lancashire, having played league cricket for Ramsbottom before India's recent one-day series in Zimbabwe.

Last month he helped Ramsbottom win the Worsley Cup, taking three wickets and scoring 37 in the final against Todmorden.

## Federer, Hewitt

FROM PAGE 12  
him that was giving me that rhythm."

It was Federer's 69th match win against three losses this year and his 33rd straight win on hardcourts this year since losing to Marat Safin in the semi-finals of the Australian Open in January.

In contrast Hewitt needed five sets to see off the modest challenge of Nieminen, the first Finn to reach the last eight of a Grand Slam tournament.

Hewitt dropped the first set and was in danger of a shock exit when he went two sets to one down.

Curiously for him he looked jaded and at times almost disinterested, and it took him until he broke serve at the start of the fifth set before he finally let rip with one of his trademark "C" mon."

Hewitt was playing in his sixth straight US Open quarter-finals, the only man with such a record, as he campaigned for his third Grand Slam title after victories here in 2001 and Wimbledon 2002.

Asked if he would adopt a different approach to the game with Federer compared to last year's final when he was outclassed 6-0, 7-6, 6-0, Hewitt said that he had to get off to a better start.

# Mixed Slam delight for Hantuchova



AFP, New York

Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova completed a career mixed dou-

bles Grand Slam here Thursday, teaming with Indian doubles expert Mahesh Bhupathi to win the US Open title.

The pair, who saved a match point against China's Sun Tiantian and her Swedish partner Simon Aspelin in the first round,



PHOTO: AFP

Mahesh Bhupathi of India and his mixed doubles partner Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia celebrate after defeating Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia and Nenad Zimonjic of Serbia & Montenegro on Thursday. They won the final 6-4, 6-2.

## PREVIEW: SERIE A

# Somma's chance to topple idol

### Football

AFP, Rome

Empoli coach Mario Somma will pit his wits against his role model on Sunday when the Tuscan side host Serie A champions Juventus.

Somma has long been an admirer of his Juventus counterpart Fabio Capello, religiously watching the six-time Scudetto-winning coach to try and find out what makes him so successful.

"I've studied him for years," said the 41-year-old Somma, who guided Empoli to promotion last season and is coaching in the top division for the first time.

"When Capello was in charge of Roma I used to watch the club's satellite channel day and night, keeping a close eye on his training sessions."

"I wanted to learn from him and discover his secrets - now on Sunday I'll be playing the master."

Somma, who is 18 years younger than Capello, first came face to face with Juve's coach two decades ago.

"I was playing for Genoa's youth

team and he was coaching AC Milan's youth team. That was about 20 years ago, but I remember how he inspired his youngsters."

The last time Empoli hosted Juventus was in the 2003-04 season when they held the Turin giants to a 3-3 draw.

In the first round of matches played before the break for internationals, Juventus grinded out a 1-0 home win over Chievo while Empoli lost by the same score away to Udinese.

Juventus will be without their captain Alessandro Del Piero after he suffered a thigh strain while training with the Italy squad.

His absence could see Adrian Mutu, who scored twice for Romania against the Czech Republic last week, given his first league start.

"Hopefully what I did will send out the right message to Capello," said Mutu, who joined Juve after being sacked by English Premiership side Chelsea for taking cocaine. "Those goals were a real boost for my morale."

AC Milan, who were held to a 1-1 draw at Ascoli in their opening match, host Siena at the San Siro on Saturday, while Inter Milan's title

credentials will come under heavy scrutiny away to Palermo on the same day.

Udinese defender Vincent Candela has admitted it will be strange to play against his former club Roma on Sunday.

Candela spent seven years at Roma and helped them clinch the league title in 2001.

"I never would have imagined I would one day go back to the Olympic stadium as a rival," said the former France international.

"My Roma career was a splendid experience, one I'll always cherish."

Sundays clash will also be an emotional occasion for Luciano Spalletti, who left Udinese in the summer to coach Roma.

FIXTURES
(all 1300 GMT kick-off unless stated)
Saturday: Palermo v Inter Milan (1600), AC Milan v Siena (1830)
Sunday: Cagliari v Lazio (1830), Chievo v Parma, Empoli v Juventus, Lecce v Ascoli, Messina v Fiorentina, Roma v Udinese, Sampdoria v Reggina, Treviso v Livorno

# Ashrafal, Aftab enable draw

FROM PAGE 12  
the habit of playing longer," added Ashrafal admitting that a bad shot was responsible for his dismissal 13 runs short of a hundred.

"I went after it because I was confident that I could hit that. Now my focus is on doing better in four Tests innings."

Mashud, who led the side in absence of Habibul Bashar, termed the match as good preparation.

"The wicket was uneven and seaming on the first day. But it got better and it was almost dead on the second day. The ball was not taking much height but it was playable. So there was no pressure on players on the final day."

"It is difficult on this type of wicket to get rid of a batsman if he wants to stay, Ashrafal and Aftab played straight and it was the best technique."

"But I would have been happier had they not given their wickets. A century to Ashrafal and an unbeaten knock by Aftab, who needed a big innings,

would have been more encouraging before the Tests. I think Ashrafal might have tried to play a few shots in the end," Mashud added.

Bashar, who watched the match from the bench, also thought that it was good to see the batters get some runs.

"We badly needed that. Three batsmen had fine sessions but I would have liked Nafees (Iqbal) to score some runs. The draw was not so bad because they had to bat a whole day to save the match," the Bangladesh captain said.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard at stumps on the third and final day of the three-day practice match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka Development Squad at the Clots Cricket Club ground in Colombo on Friday:

BANGLADESH:	
-------------	--