



I JUST NEED TWO FROM YOU! Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger (L) giving start striker Thierry Henry some instructions during the match against Sparta Prague in Prague on Tuesday.

King Henry to the fore



Thierry Henry became Arsenal's record scorer as he marked his return from a five-week injury layoff with a double which gave his side a 2-0 Champions League Group B win at Sparta Prague on Tuesday.

Arsene Wenger called the French player in after 15 minutes to replace Jose Reyes and he marked his 69th Champions League appearance by scoring six minutes later.

becoming Arsenal's top scorer. "I think the fans of Sparta Prague maybe didn't realise why I was like that making signs to our fans trying to draw the 186. "It was an important game for us. We showed some great character after the defeat by West Brom. "I am just over the moon about the record. Wrighty was a great player. "I wanted to do it at Highbury but when you score you score." Henry's contract runs out at the end of next season, but the 28-year-old refused to be drawn on his future at Highbury. "I have said it is really important to concentrate on the season," Henry told ITV2. "I will discuss it with the club at the end of the season. "One thing you can be sure of is when I am on the pitch, I will give it 100 percent. "You can never doubt my commitment on the pitch. When I step on it I play with my heart."

The Frenchman has not played since facing Fulham on August 24 after suffering a worsening of his groin inflammation during France's World Cup qualifier against the Republic of Ireland on September 7. But with Freddie Ljungberg added to an injury list already including Ashley Cole, Sol Campbell and Alexander Hleb, Arsenal boss Wenger recalled his French captain ahead of schedule. Robin van Persie was also back in the squad after missing the weekend defeat at West Bromwich Albion with a thigh problem, while Gilberto returned after suffering jetlag following international duty with Brazil. Arsenal got off to an attacking start with Spanish midfielder Francesc Fabregas having their first shot at goal after just two minutes when he caught a cross from Lauren, but Sparta goalie Jaromir Blazek held firm. A second foul on striker Reyes after 13 minutes, this time at the

hands of Martin Petras, left the Spaniard looking in real pain, and two minutes later Wenger opted to field Henry. His presence was felt immediately and after just three minutes he gave warning of his intentions by sending a shot over the top, before netting after 21 minutes when he picked up a cross from defender Kolo Toure before curling in with his right foot. Sparta had a series of chances to get the equaliser starting with a Karol Kisel effort after 53 minutes, with Lehmann also keeping out two further quick fire attempts from Michal Kadlec and Kisel. Deep into the second half van Persie moved out to the left flank with Henry filling the role of lone striker as Arsenal looked to defend their lead. Henry had a shot blocked after 65 minutes but was again on target seven minutes later with the winner.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE. AFP, Paris. Collated European Champions League results after Tuesday's third round of group stage matches: GROUP A At Munich, Germany Bayern Munich (GER) 2 (Deisler 32, Demichelis 38) Juventus (ITA) 1 (Ibrahimovic 90) At Vienna Rapid Vienna (AUT) 0 FC Bruges (BEL) 1 (Balaban 75) GROUP B At Amsterdam Ajax (NED) 2 (Anastasiou 36, 55) FC Thun (SUI) 0 At Prague Sparta Prague (CZE) 0 Arsenal (ENG) 2 (Henry 21, 74) GROUP C At Athens Panathinaikos (GRE) 0 Barcelona (ESP) 0 At Udine, Italy Udinese (ITA) 1 (Di Natale 86) Werder Bremen (GER) 1 (Felipe-og 64) GROUP D At Villarreal, Spain Villarreal (ESP) 1 (Riquelme 72-pen) Benfica (POR) 1 (Fernandes 77) At Manchester, England Manchester United (ENG) 0 Lille (FRA) 0

FIFA's world rankings

AFP, Paris. FIFA's world rankings, which will be one of the factors used when the 2006 World Cup seedings are decided on December 6, has the Czech Republic in third place although the Czechs have yet to beat Norway to qualify for Germany. Of the 27 teams who have so far qualified for the Germany finals, 14 are in the top 20 and another 11 are ranked between 21 and 30. Ghana (51st) and Angola (60th) are the only two qualifiers not in the top 50. Leading FIFA rankings (including World Cup qualifiers and play-off teams): Country pts 1. Brazil 840 2. Holland 797 3. Czech Rep 783 4. Argentina 778 5. France 776 6. Mexico 769 7. USA 768 8. Spain 764 9. England 754 10. Portugal 754 11. Turkey 743 12. Italy 736 13. Sweden 733 14. Denmark 730 15. Germany 712 16. Japan 711 17. Uruguay 709 18. Greece 706 19. Croatia 702 20. Costa Rica 700

Kapil's words of wisdom

Former India captain Kapil Dev on Wednesday lamented soured relations between Sourav Ganguly and coach Greg Chappell and said clash of egos between two persons should not cost the team's interest. "Ego is good. There has to be difference of opinion. But there should not be an ego-clash at the cost of team's interest," Kapil said at the sidelines of a promotional function here. The legendary all rounder said he also had differences with little master Sunil Gavaskar "but it did not mean that we were fighting with each other putting the team's interest at stake". Asked whether Ganguly should retire from international cricket, he said "it should be left to Ganguly". On the poor performance of World-XI against Australia, he said the team lacked commitment despite composed of big names in the world cricket. "Big names are not important. Commitment matters much, what the Australian team has proved," he noted.

ICC clears

FROM PAGE 12 chucking in the West Indies in May this year, and he was subsequently banned from bowling at international level after tests in July. The all-clear means Shabbir will be available for Pakistan's home series against England from November to December this year. The first Test starts in Multan on November 12. "It's good news for me and now I will be more focussed on doing my best for my country," Shabbir told AFP. "It was a frustrating period but I thank Allah, the Almighty, it's over," said Shabbir. Shabbir has taken 46 Test wickets and 33 in one-day internationals. He was first reported in a tri-series competition in Canada in 1998, but was cleared after undergoing some corrective measures by former West Indian bowler Michael Holding. His action went under the scanner for a second time when he was reported during Pakistan's Test series in New Zealand last year. Pakistan has been badly hit by suspect bowling action problems, with Shoaib Akhtar, Shoaib Malik, Shahid Afridi and Mohammad Hafiz all having been reported in the past.

Bayern's sweet revenge

AFP, Munich. Bayern Munich put themselves in the box seat to qualify as Group A winners with a 2-1 Champions League home win over Juventus here on Tuesday. After losing twice to Juventus in last season's group stage, on both occasions by a 1-0 scoreline, Bayern had a score to settle. Two goals inside eight minutes from German international Sebastian Deisler and Argentine Martin Demichelis helped Bayern to achieve that aim as they defeated the Italians for the first time in European competition. Swedish international Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored in the final minute but it could not prevent Juve's first loss in a season where they have won their first seven league matches in Serie A. "The most important thing is that we have beaten a top team in Juventus," beamed Bayern manager Felix Magath. "I have already said we can do a lot in the Champions League this season. But we have to make sure we are more ruthless if we are to achieve in Europe."

Barca, MU fire blanks

AFP, Paris. Group B's Second-placed Ajax beat Swiss minnows FC Thun 2-0 in Amsterdam thanks to goals from Greek striker Yannis Anastasiou. Premiership giants Arsenal however, lead Ajax by five points after posing their third successive win, a 2-0 cruise over Sparta Prague. In Group A FC Bruges came away from a visit to Rapid Vienna with a 1-0 win, their first in this campaign to leave the Belgians third on three points. Bayern top the Group with nine points followed by Juventus who they beat 2-1 on Tuesday. At Old Trafford Manchester United were held to a goalless draw

In the opening quarter hour there was only one team and that was hosts Bayern, who played with energy in purpose in front of the 66,000 fans. In the fourth minute Dutch international Roy Makaay, who has gone 634 minutes without a goal, found himself in a good position but his blistering volley sailed wide of Christian Abbiati's goal. Michael Ballack, who is to hold showdown talks on Wednesday over his contract that expires at the end of the season, then forced Abbiati into a fine save with a fierce free-kick. Abbiati was deputising for the injured Gianluigi Buffon but looked unsure and he was responsible for gifting Bayern the lead. In the 52nd minute Deisler surged down the right and surprised Abbiati by shooting instead of crossing and the ball deflected off the goalkeeper's thigh into the net. Six minutes later Bayern were 2-0 up as Demichelis eased away from marker David Trezeguet to power home a header from close range. Juventus had conceded just two goals in their first seven Serie A games but Bayern matched that feat in six hectic minutes. "They made a few mistakes at the back and we exploited them," said Kahn. "We want to win this competi-

tion and that is not being arrogant in anyway. "We saw today that we can beat the top teams and have a chance to go all the way." A left-footed volley from Czech international Pavel Nedved was the only response for Juventus in an uninspiring first period. "Bayern deserved to win," conceded Juventus manager Fabio Capello. "We had a few half chances but we could not match Bayern's aggressive style. They are very robust and we did not compete well in that area." Capello introduced Italian international Alessandro Del Piero, making his 100th European appearance, as the visitors looked to overturn a two-goal deficit. Del Piero forced Kahn to punch away a trademark free-kick in the 53rd minute but Juve, missing the drive of injured French international Patrick Viera, never looked like making the breakthrough. Makaay went close to extending Bayern's advantage in the closing stages before Ibrahimovic pulled back a goal in the final minute. It was the first goal Bayern had conceded at their new Allianz Arena, a venue that replaced the Olympic Stadium at the start of the season, but the win was all that counted.

by French visitors Lille in a game notable only for the sending-off of Paul Scholes and a Ryan Giggs free-kick that hit the post. Giggs came away from his 100th game on the European stage with a fractured cheekbone. A total of six players were booked in a scrappy encounter watched by 60,000 frustrated supporters, although Lille's small band of fans appeared pleased with the point. United head Group D with a one point lead from Benfica, who drew 1-1 at Villarreal. In Athens plucky Panathinaikos held Spanish giants Barcelona to a 0-0 draw at the Olympic stadium, the stalemate leaving Frank Rijkaard's millionaires heading Group C on seven points, three clear of Udinese, who drew 1-1 with

German champions Werder Bremen. Panathinaikos are in third place on four. Panathinaikos dug deep to stifle Barcelona's star-studded strike force. This was Barcelona's first slip-up after two wins. Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o lost two golden opportunities to score for Barcelona in the closing stages. The first came in the 80th minute when he broke away from the right side and manoeuvred past Panathinaikos defender Nasief Morris and goalie Mario Galinovic, only to have his shot in the open goal go wide. Two minutes later Eto'o again sprinted past defenders only to have the ball snuffed at his feet by Galinovic.

Minty reverse swing!

AFP/REUTERS, Sydney. English bowlers managed to get reverse swing by sucking a particular brand of mint available in Britain then polishing one side of the ball with their saliva. Bracken said he first encountered the magic mint during a stint playing county cricket at Gloucester in 2003. "It is just a breath mint you put in your mouth but it makes your saliva very sugary and that is being talked about being used over there," Bracken told commercial radio in Sydney. "Every team has lollies (sweets) and things like that, we had all our lollies checked before the first game to make sure there was nothing illegal that we had. "When I was playing at Gloucester a couple of years ago as soon as we needed the ball to go 'Irish' the captain would call and they would bring out some of these mints and it would work." English bowlers Andrew Flintoff

took 24 wickets at an average of 27 and Simon Jones took 18 wickets at 21 during the five Test Ashes series. There is no suggestion England's players broke any rules as players are permitted to apply saliva and sweat to polish the ball. However, officials have begun to crackdown on any suspicious activities with Cricket Australia issuing an advisory to watch out for anyone "loading" one side of the ball. Bracken's explanation about the art of reverse swing, the ability to swing an old cricket ball in the opposite direction to that expected by batsmen, is the latest in a series of theories that have puzzled the cricket world for decades. Most were based on suspicion and claims it was done illegally, with bottle tops and penknives and sharp fingernails while some players were caught on tape trying to scuff up the ball or apply lubricants, earning the practice a dubious reputation as ball-tampering.

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Davenport poised for top spot

AFP/REUTERS, Zurich. Lindsay Davenport can regain the world number one spot by beating Slovak Daniela Hantuchova in the second round of the Zurich Open on Thursday. The 29-year-old American, however, would rather be at home than chasing ranking points in Europe. "I'm better off at home with my family and my husband than being in Europe for three weeks at this age and at this stage of my career," Davenport told reporters. "I'm not playing for the ranking or I would play every single tournament. I play because I enjoy it and want to do more but my husband and marriage is my priority and being away for three weeks is not something I'm willing to do right now." If third-placed Davenport fails to beat Hantuchova, who reached the second round with a 1-6 7-5 6-4 win over Japan's Ai Sugiyama on Tuesday, second-placed Belgian Kim Clijsters

will return to top spot in next week's rankings. World number one Maria Sharapova is not defending the ranking points she received by reaching the Zurich final last year. After winning the Filderstadt title in Germany on October 9, Davenport made a brief visit back to California before returning to Europe to compete at the \$1.3 million event here. The three-times former champion believes she has an advantage over many of her tiring opponents as the season winds down. "That quite often has been the case," said Davenport. "There's no question there's a lot of physical and mental energy that's missing at this time of the year. "It's been a long year for everybody. But I typically play well indoors and in the past have done very well in the autumn so hopefully that'll be the case again. "There's no question this is the toughest time of year to play but I'm personally lucky it is indoors. I think some of the points go a little bit faster

and it's easier for me to serve well." Having come close to retiring in 2004, Davenport draws enormous satisfaction from having reached two grand slam finals this year, at the Australian Open and Wimbledon. She said her defeat by Venus Williams at Wimbledon was her best and worst experience of the year. "I'm happy with the way the year went," she said. "I did everything I could to win the grand slams. "It didn't happen but I feel I rebounded well from that and I'm still going strong. "Wimbledon was an amazing, amazing experience, to be part of a final like that. I remember the crowd just being incredible at the end and even when I lost they were so supportive of me. "Obviously it's tough to lose a match like that and be so close and have it mean so much but not happen. "But I look back at that, and know I will for the rest of my career, with pride. It was really fun to be a part of and really sad the way it turned out."

Legal notice served

FRPM PAGE 12 days prior to the proposed meeting through postal service and newspaper. However, the notice was delivered by hand and it was never published in a national daily. Also, he received the audit reports for six years (1999-2000 to 2004-05) including a letter from the treasurer that invited queries on or before 10 am on October 16 so that such queries may be answered in the AGM. There was also a proposal of amendment of the 2003 constitution that proposes 64 amendments to the constitution, which has only 30 articles. The councillor feels that this is an amendment of a serious nature requiring serious deliberation, consideration and appropriate feedback from all concerned. Having received the said proposal and other letters only four days prior to the AGM, the councillors will not be able to take part in the discussion, which according to the councillor, is a gross violation of his rights. There were also complaints that the board high-ups have deliberately flouted the provisions of the constitution, suppressed facts and served notice making inordinate delay in order to exclude his client from asserting his rights. It also sees the board's action as an attempt to validate its illegal acts and financial irregularities in contravention

of the provisions of the BCB constitution and the law. The legal notice also requested the board BCB to withdraw the notice for holding of AGM, refrain from taking any action in pursuance of the said notice and respect and observe the provisions of the constitution and reply within 24 hours. Otherwise, it threatened to take recourse to law without any further notice. Q'land on verge of outright win AFP, Brisbane Queensland were poised to claim outright points against Tasmania at stumps in Day Three of the opening Sheffield Shield match of the Australian cricket season Wednesday. The Bulls racked up a quickfire 459 in reply to Tasmania's first innings total of 268 then had the visitors at five wickets for 148 and struggling to avoid the follow on at the end of the day. In Perth, Western Australia were 24 runs without loss in their second innings but still trailed Victoria by 105 runs at tea in the second day of play.

Ganguly's chance

FROM PAGE 12 Ganguly, the most successful India captain with 21 Test victories, is the fourth batsman in one-day cricket to complete 10,000 runs after compatriot Sachin Tendulkar, Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya and Pakistan's Inzamam-ul-Haq. Two Indian legends, Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev, had mixed feelings about Ganguly's possible return to the international stage. "It will not be easy for Sourav," Dev, one of the game's great all-rounders, told AFP. "It will be difficult to play under someone else. The only thing Sourav needs to do is score a lot of runs so that the selectors cannot ignore him any more." Gavaskar, a prolific opening batsman and former India captain, was agast that Ganguly's career was being written off. "How does the question arise?" the Indian media quoted Gavaskar as telling the Australian Broadcasting Corporation during the Super Test in Sydney. "Sourav recently completed 10,000 runs in one-day cricket. How can people forget these things so soon? "He has won so many matches for India and we should not forget he is the most successful captain. Presently he is injured and that can happen to any sportsman." Ganguly has scored 5,066 runs in 84 Tests with 12 centuries. He also has 10,123 one-day runs in 279 matches with 22 hundreds.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Genie's home 5 NASCAR sponsor 8 Radar spot 12 Dr. Frankenstein's aide 13 Scull tool 14 Took the 'A' train 15 Foot-work? 17 'Zip--Doo-Dah' 18 Use the remote, maybe 19 Gregarious 21 'Foolish Games' singer 24 Discourteous 25 'QB VII' author 26 Position of esteem 30 Wile measure 31 Ice-bucket accessory 32 Past 33 Lineage 35 Pharmaceutical 36 Water barrier 37 Mosquito attacks 38 Confirm 41 Charged bit 42 Sandwich treat 43 Stodgily erudite 48 Soother 49 Lemieux milieu 50 Lira successor 51 Right angles 52 Astronaut 53 Sitcom housewife 54 Donna 2 Census statistic 3 Stylish, to Austin Powers 4 Game-show loot 5 Callaloo or cock-a-leekie 6 Plitch fever 7 Form an early opinion 8 Allantia town 9 California town 10 Concept 11 Rfid of rfid 16 Ripken of baseball 20 Poetic 21 Checkers move 22 One of HOMES 23 Frenzied 24 Zellweger or Taylor 26 Cartoon sign-off speaker 27 Acerbic 28 Cherbic and fever 29 Cabin components 31 End-of-work-week initials 34 Linguistic peculiarities 35 Banquet feastery 38 Judicial raiment 39 Inland sea 40 Snitch 41 Fateful day in Rome 44 Old French coin 45 Election Day, for ex. 46 Anger 47 Sealoff selection

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters: WT U J R D M I J R V Q WI U M R O J JR T U A A R S Q C U V K P W J H R O . H R O D W F P J I U H H R O ' C Q W V F C U S Q K U V F Q C. Yesterday's Cryptogram: SHOULD PEOPLE BE PERMITTED TO GIVE GRIZZLIES GUNS? I BELIEVE IN THE RIGHT TO ARM BEARS. Today's Cryptogram Clue: Y equals N

The Cryptogram 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.