# 'Captain England' nears his 50th

Football

TIMES ONLINE, London

David Beckham prepared for his 50th game as England captain Monday night by rounding on the critics who have suggested that he is unworthy to lead the national side

The Real Madrid midfield player maintains that he has the backing of both Sven-Goran Eriksson, the head coach, and his teammates and that he is going into the match on Saturday against Argentina eager to underline his maturity, seven years after suffering arguably his worst moment in an England shirt, when he was sent off in a match between the countries in the 1998 World Cup finals.

Beckham, 30, will lead his country almost five years to the day since Peter Taylor, the caretaker manager at the time, gave him the captain's armband for the first time before a friendly match against Italy.

"Being given the added responsibility of being made captain pushed me on," he said.

"When I was given the job, I admit it was a surprise. But it was a responsibility that I needed and I wanted to have. When someone gives you an honour like that, it also gives you a great lift. It is a responsibility that I

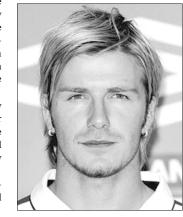
"Unfortunately, five years on, people say the captaincy should be taken off me to relieve me of that pressure, but I love being England captain and I don't feel any pressure with it at all. To be England captain is one of the greatest honours anyone

Beckham made it clear that while there may have been calls from outside the squad for him to pass on the job, those demands have not been echoed inside the dressing-room. Eriksson has never lost faith in

Beckham's suitability for the job, but Wayne Rooney's outburst during the 1-0 defeat by Northern Ireland in September led to speculation that certain players were unhappy with his

"It's great, not just to have the support of the manager but also the players," Beckham said.

The players have always spoken well of me or stuck up for me when things have gone badly. That is the way I am to them and it's nice that it is like



**DAVID BECKHAM** 

that back. I'm pleased that I definitely have that support."

His first match as England captain ended in a 1-0 defeat at the Stadio Delle Alpi in November 2000, Gennaro Gattuso scored the only goal, having two minutes earlier given Beckham a clip round the back of the head behind the referee's back, for which he should have been sent off.

Not responding to Gattuso's provocation was an impressive show of self-control from the new captain. When Taylor handed the reins to Eriksson, the Swede kept faith with a man who had been public enemy No 1 for being sent off in the World Cup second-round defeat by Argentina. After that infamous, petulant kick

at Diego Simeone in 1998, even Beckham said that his rise to the cantaincy was "astonishing".

On Saturday, the former Manchester United player will be the centre of attention again -- as he was in Japan in 2002, when Beckham scored a penalty to give England a 1-0 victory in a World Cup finals group match in

"Unfortunately, that will always be the case with games against Argentina until I retire," Beckham

"There has always been that rivalry between the two teams. You like to put yourself up against the best and even though friendlies aren't taken as seriously as normal competitive games, Argentina is always going to be a tough match.'

Beckham's sending-off against Austria last month robbed him of the chance to chalk up his half-century against Poland at Old Trafford in England's last World Cup qualifier. He added: "It's always hard when you are missing out on games, and missing out on that one when we went top of the group was especially tough.

"I always love playing at Old Trafford and it was disappointing not to be there for a lap of honour. But I was just happy that we got the result and finished top of the group."

Beckham now goes into his third significant finals as England captain. So far the best moments have been limited to qualifying games. He acknowledges that it is now time for him and for England to deliver when it matters most.

"We should go further in big tournaments," he said.

"In qualifying, when it comes to big games and needing to win, we seem to get the results, but now we have to take that into a World Cup finals and go further than we have done in other tournaments.'

## Brazil Platini's top bet



Brazil will be outstanding favorites to defend the World Cup in Germany next summer, French

legend Michel Platini has said. "That's only natural because Brazil has five or six phenomenal players in attack and they have good players on defense as well," he told

Next to Brazil, Platini said that it would depend which out of France, Italy, Germany, Spain (if they qualify), Argentina, England and the Netherlands manage to produce their best form at the right moment.

**PREMIERSHIP** 

Gazzetta dello Sport.

## **Bolton baffle Spurs**

Bolton captain Kevin Nolan's longrange strike send his side rocketing up to third in the Premiership Monday with a 1-0 win over Tottenham at the

Nolan's seventh goal of the season came in the 32nd minute and was enough to divide two of the top flight's

The match was watched by England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson, who was in the stands to see Spurs' international contingent ahead of Saturday's friendly with Argentina.

And Eriksson left the stadium with 'Nolan for England' ringing in his ears after his stunning strike gave Bolton their third 1-0 win in a row - with the 23year-old also the match-winner against Charlton and Zenit St Petersburg.

Nolan admitted that luck had been on his side as Spurs striker Jermain Defoe had a goal ruled out for offside and the visitors twice hit the woodwork in the closing stages.

# Adidas versus Puma: The shoe story

## **Football**

REUTERS, Berlin

Pele stopped the referee with a lastsecond request to tie his shoelaces at the opening whistle of a 1970 World Cup finals match and then knelt down to give millions of television viewers a close-up of his Pumas.

The Brazilian was complying with a request by Puma's representative Hans Henningsen to raise the German sports shoe company's profile after they gave him 120,000 dollars to wear their boots.

The clandestine advertising for Puma was a huge triumph for the company over hated cross-town rivals Adidas in the early days of the war for market supremacy in sports merchan-

Barbara Smit, a Dutch author and iournalist, has spent five years trawling the archives of the Adidas and Puma headquarters in the Bavarian town of Herzogenaurach to research Rudolf and Adolf Dassler -- brothers who started making sports shoes in their mother's laundry room in the 1920s before becoming sport and business giants.

Her new book, 'Drei Streifen gegen Puma' ("Three Stripes versus Puma"), tracks the remarkable rise of the Dassler brothers during Germany's sport-obsessed 1920s, their cooperation with the Nazis, their ugly post-war split and their hatred-driven competition that created separate empires.

"As embittered rivals, the

estranged brothers led their respective companies to the top of the world," Smit wrote.

"Muhammad Ali, Franz Beckenbauer and Zinedine Zidane became legends in the three stripes of Adidas while soccer god Pele ... and Boris Becker achieved global fame in

The book chronicles the decline of both family-run firms caught off guard by US rivals Nike and the failure to spot new trends such as the running

Both Adidas and Puma have recovered from their brushes with disaster as publicly owned companies in the vibrant 17-billion dollar worldwide sports shoe industry, but only after long and messy separations from their

"I was fascinated by the mixture of this incredible family rift, the business feud and the sporting triumphs, which forged two mighty brands recognised all over the world," Smit told Reuters of her book which also draws on US intelligence documents and more than 200 interviews around the world.

The two firms are based in Herzogenaurach, a town of 23,200 that lies 20 km outside Nuremberg, even though most production was long ago moved to low-cost countries. Handmade shoes for some big names, such as David Beckham, are still produced Mark Spitz was en route to winning

seven gold medals in 1972 when he was approached by Horst Dassler. the son of Adidas founder Adi Dassler, in Munich's Olympic village. Dassler

asked the American swimmer to wear Adidas at the medal ceremonies.

"The problem was only that they would probably be covered by the loose-fitting warm-up pants that swimmers wear," Smit wrote.

"Dassler told Spitz he should carry the shoes in his hands instead. Spitz got carried away by Dassler's enthusiasm and held up a pair of Adidas 'Gazelles' as he waved to the crowd." She said Spitz had some explaining to do to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) after that.

Another notable moment in the Adidas v Puma battle came at the 1960 Olympics. Smit said it was the first time a prominent Olympian got money for wearing shoes. "Rudolf Dassler opened this

Pandora's box in 1960 by paying German sprinter Armin Hary money to wear Pumas in the 100 metres final," Smit says. Hary had worn Adidas before and asked Adi for payment, but Hary won gold in Pumas, but then

laced up Adidas for the medals ceremony -- to the shock of both Adi and "With a keen business acumen,

Hary hoped to cash in from both with the trick," she writes. "But Adi was so outraged he banned the Olympic champion." Rudolf and Adi Dassler learned at

an early age the enormous impact that gold medals had on their shoe busi-

When US sprinter Jesse Owens got to Germany for Berlin's 1936

Bavaria on one of the world's first motorways to the Olympic Village. There he found Owens, unpacked a suitcase filled with spikes and persuaded him to try them. Owens won four gold medals in Dassler shoes.

"Owens's success cemented the good reputation of Dassler shoes among the world's most famous sportsmen," Smit writes. "Letters from around the world landed on the brothers' desks, and the trainers of other national teams were all interested in

Business boomed and the Dasslers were selling 200,000 pairs of shoes each year before World War Two.

The war exacerbated tensions between the two brothers and their wives. Although both Dasslers joined the Nazi party and signed their letters with a "Heil Hitler" salutation, Rudolf was a more devoted Nazi, according to

The origins of the split between Rudolf and Adi are hard to pinpoint but an Allied bomb attack on Herzogenaurach in 1943 illustrated the growing tension. Adi and his wife climbed into a bomb shelter that Rudolf and his family were already in.

"The dirty b\*\*\*\*\* are back again," Adi said, apparently referring to the Allied war planes. Rudolf was convinced his brother meant him and his family. The damage was never In 1948, the brothers split their

business. Adolf called his firm "Adidas"; Rudolf called his "Ruda' before changing to "Puma".

# It's for Ferguson

Football

Anger over the flood of criticism directed at manager Sir Alex Ferguson was the spur to Manchester United's battling defeat of champions Chelsea, Rio Ferdinand has revealed.

Ferguson had been under intense pressure ahead of Sunday's Old Trafford showdown following defeats at Middlesbrough and Lille and club captain Roy Keane's scathing criticism of his team-mates on the club's own television channel.

But a gutsy display from Ferdinand and co. has eased the pressure on the manager and the England defender admitted: "People were calling for his head but that was absolutely ridicu-

"We all know what a great manager he is and beating Chelsea was for him as much as anyone

"It was a big, big win for the fans, the players and the manager. Everyone has been under pressure but probably no one more than the gaf-

Ferdinand warned that United, who remain ten points adrift of Chelsea, could not afford to stand back and admire their good work in ending Jose Mourinho's side's 40-match unbeaten run in the Premiership.

"It will mean absolutely nothing if we got and play badly in our next game against Charlton," Ferdinand told The Sun. "This has to be the start of big

Ferdinand has been under pressure himself in recent weeks. After being dropped from the England



**RIO FERDINAND** 

starting line-up last month, he has been jeered by a section of the United support for error-strewn performances which have scarcely justified his reported 120,000 pounds a week

Ferdinand was one of the players  $criticised\,by\,Keane\,in\,his\,controversial$ outburst on MUTV last week, which the club decided not to broadcast.

But he insisted the club captain had not said anything that he did not  $think\,about\,his\,own\,performances.$ 

"I respect Roy as the team captain." Ferdinand said. "He obviously spoke and said what he felt but what he said about me is nothing that I didn't think about myself and more. I'm my own fiercest critic.'

Ferdinand denied however that Keane had referred to his wages during his onslaught, as some reports sug-

"I've seen the interview and nowhere does Roy ever mention what I earn or refer to my contract.

"He was specifically looking at faults in the Middlesbrough game regarding all the players and he was absolutely spot on with his comments.'

Keane's comments were shown to the players in a specially convened session at United's Carrington training ground last Thursday and their impact now appears to have been galvanising rather than, as some feared, morale-shredding.

"I think the win has lifted us and shown other teams the title race is not

over," Ferdinand added. to my family.' "Chelsea are a quality side but the message has gone out there to say that if you play your football you have got a chance of winning against them.'

## **Desailly gets** homesick

Former French captain Marcel Desailly has quit his club in Qatar to return to France and said he wants to continue to play football. "I am a little homesick because of

the distance from my family who stayed in France," the 37-year-old Desailly told AFP. "That's why, after a superb year at Al-Gharafa with (French coach) Bruno

Metsu, and a champions' title last year, I'm leaving Qatar to head off on some new adventures. "I came to an agreement with (Oatar FC) officials on Sunday to cut

short my contract," said Desailly, who holds a record 116 caps for France and left Al-Gharafa in the offseason to join Qatar FC. "I still want to play football. I want to bounce back," he said, adding that

he would be training in France to keep Desailly said, however, that he had had no contact with any clubs in

France. "I'll come back to France and see. I don't have any concrete ideas, I just want to play football while being closer

## REUTERS, London



Trinidad and Tobago will complete an amazing comeback if they beat Bahrain in their two-legged playoff and reach the World Cup finals for the first time in

their history this month. Goalkeeper Shaka Hislop believes reaching Germany 2006 would be one of the most significant achievements in the Caribbean

country's history. "We've been close to the World Cup before but never been there and it would be a big boost not just for Trinidad and Tobago but for the whole Caribbean region," he said.

"We feel we've got the players

and the ability to put our country on

the map. I wouldn't like to guess what it would be like over there if we "I'm sure there will be street parties. It would be a special time in our history and I'm sure the people

would make it a time to remember." That they are even playing Bahrain represents a huge achievement in itself, as with more than half the CONCACAF final qualifying group completed, Trinidad and Tobago had looked down and out.

They won just one of their first six matches under former coach Bertille St Clair, who was replaced after a 5-1 defeat to Guatemala last March. In came the experienced 63-

year-old Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker who guided them to three wins out of their last four qualifiers which allowed them to recover to finish fourth in the sixteam group and qualify for the playoffs against Bahrain, winners of the Asian playoff against Uzbekistan.

Now Hislop, the 36-year-old West Ham United goalkeeper, cannot wait for Saturday's first leg against Bahrain in Port-of-Spain.

With a population of just over one million, Trinidad would be the smallest country at the tournament and the first Caribbean country to qualify since Jamaica in 1998. Hislop will undergo medical

checks this week after being substituted in West Ham's 1-0 Premier League win over West Bromwich Albion on Saturday following a head injury, but it would take a brave doctor to prevent him from playing in what he describes as "the biggest game of my career".

Captained by former Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke, now with Sydney United,

34 Pontiac

muscle

ACROSS

32 Olym-

Sheepish

Trinidad also feature players from England's lower leagues such as Stern John of Derby County, who has scored 12 goals in the qualifiers, and Paul Birchall of Port Vale. Hislop says victory over Bahrain

would help his country to become a

breeding ground for new talent by

bringing a new generation of young players to the world's attention. He said: "It's a personal dream of mine to play in the World Cup with Trinidad and I know this campaign

is my last chance to make it. "But as far as the larger picture goes it's a fantastic opportunity to make a name for ourselves and bring the spotlight on to our local

"There are so many kids in Trinidad with dreams of playing professionally, and we're always on the look-out for the next Dwight "I have family and friends there

myself, and my wife is Trinidadian. It's where I call home and it always will be. I can guess what the atmosphere is like there now. "I was a kid growing up there and I know what it means to the young-

sters over there. It's a dream to see us

at the World Cup. We're all hoping

## Trinidad on the brink shopping in January AFP, Manchester

**Red Devils go** 

Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson has confirmed he will be delving into the transfer market in January, with a replacement for captain Roy Keane top of his shop-United have been hit hard by a

the club's website he would be looking to increase the size of his squad during the January transfer Ferguson has reportedly been

string of injuries and Ferguson told

granted a transfer budget of ten million pounds by United's new owners, the Glazer family.

Among the players seen as possible replacements for Keane are St Etienne's Didier Zokora, who has the significant advantage of not being cup-tied in the Champions League.

United have also been linked with Real Madrid's Danish midfielder Thomas Gravesen and Deportivo La Coruna's Aldo Duscher.

The Red Devils are also attempting to persuade Michael Ballack to join them next summer when the Germany captain's contract at Bayern Munich expires.

## NCL squads named

Khaled Mahmud, Mehrab Hossain Opee, Talha Jubair, Shahadat Hossain, Anwar Monir, Rashedul Haque, Mohammed Rivad, Arafat Sunny, Mosharraf Hossain, Mohammed Sharif, Sajjad Kadir, Anwar Hossain, Mahbubul Alam, Kamrul Islam and Ashraful Khan.

SYLHET DIVISION: Rajin Saleh (captain),

Alok Kapali (vice-captain), Golam Rahman, Golam Mabud, Moniruzzaman, Enamul Haque Jr, Nazmul Hossain, Hasibul Hossain, Golam Mawla, Ejaj Ahmed, Rezaul Haque Nayeem, Siddiqur Rahman, Zakwan Ahmed, Rana Mia, Imtiaz Hossain, Ashiqur Rahman, Junaid Siddiqui, Saif Mahmud, Golam Mortuza and Tapash Baisya.

RAJSHAHI DIVISION: Khaled Mashud (captain), Hasanuzzaman Rosel (vicecaptain), Naeem Islam, Jahurul Islam, Farhad Reza, Anisur Rahman, Mushfiqur Rahman, Shamimul Haque, Kamrul Islam, Saifullah Khan, Rezwanul Islam, Jubair Ahmed, Moniruzzaman, Nuruzzaman, Shafaq Al Jabir, Mohammed Shahjada, Sumon Saha, Alamgir Kabir, Farhad Hossain and Rafigul Islam.

KHULNA DIVISION: Habibul Bashar (captain), Manzarul Islam (vice-captain), Tushar Imran, Sajjadul Hasan, Hasanuzzaman, Monirul Islam, Salahuddin Ujjal, Shafiul Alam, Jamauddin Babu, Abdur Razzak, Mashrafee Bin Mortuza, Syed Rasel, Ziaur Rahman, Manjurul Islam, Mohammad Salim, Sahagir Hossain, Al Amin,

CHITTAGONG DIVISION: Akram Khan (captain), Nafees Igbal (vice-captain) Aftab Ahmed, Nazim-uddin, Faisal Hossain, Gazi Salahuddin Masumuddowlah, Dhiman Ghosh, Tarek Aziz, Gazi Alamgir, Waiskarani Palash, Waseluddin Ahmed, Shabbir Khan, Yasin Arafat, Saiu Datta, Moha-mmed Rabbi, Habib Moballik, Niaz Morshed and Ilias

BARISAL DIVISION: Shahriar Nafees (captain), Hannan Sarkar (vice-captain), Shahriar Hossain, Nasiruddin Faruque, Imran Ahmed, Ragibul Hasan, Humayun Kabir, Prasenjit Bose, Nadif Chowdhury, Ali Arman, Tarigul Islam, Arif Hossain, Mohammed Shahin, Ashikul Islam, Golam Rabbani, Anisur Rahman, Ishraq Sonnet, Sajid Islam, Arafat Salahuddin, Towhidul Islam.

### Visitors slip FROM PAGE 12

caught and bowled Faisal Athar for eight in an impressive seven-over Raza, 23, and Yousuf then com-

bined to put Pakistan 'A' on the brink of victory at 232 for four when Yousuf was given out leg before wicket to

Raza, the only Pakistan 'A' player in the Pakistan squad for the first two Tests against England, was in superb form and struck three sixes, including a pull over mid-wicket off Flintoff.

## India women to debut at Lord's

The India women's cricket team is set to play its first match at Lord's when they take on England in a one-day international fixture at the 'home of cricket' next year.

The match, England's first at the London venue for five years, is due to take place on August 14 and ground owners Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) said admission to a game scheduled during the British school summer holidays would be free. "MCC is delighted to be hosting

this womens one-day international at Lord's," said club president Robin Marlar. "It should be an excellent contest between England, who beat Australia in their Test series earlier this year. and India -- the runner's-up in the World Cup," the former Sussex captain added. To help prepare for the match at

Lord's, India will play an MCC women's team at Uppingham School, near Leicester, central England, on August 3. When India last played an MCC women's team, in 2002, they beat a

side including current England

captain Clare Connor by 32 runs.

## Langer out of 2nd Test too AFP, Sydney

Opening batsman Justin Langer will miss Australia's second Test against the West Indies next week as he struggles to recover from a broken rib, Cricket Australia said Tuesday.

Langer already missed Australia's

decisive 379-run victory over the West Indies in the first Test in Brisbane after suffering the rib injury while batting for Western Australia in a domestic first class match. Cricket Australia said Langer was

steadily improving but did not feel he

was sufficiently recovered to play in

the second Test beginning in Hobart

## on November 17. Telecasting

FROM PAGE 12

Rangpur, Chandpur and Cox's Bazar before Dhaka hosts the final leg. "We will meet the information minister tomorrow to seek his help

regarding this matter," he added.

followed by three new venues in

The qualifiers ended on September 25 with six teams --Kacharipara Sporting Club of Jamalpur, Rangamati Mohammedan, Naba Nabin Shamabesh of Munshiganj, Khulna Town Club, Feni Soccer Club and Bangladesh Army -making it to the finals. They will join automatic qualifiers Brothers Union, also the defending champions, runners-up Mukti-joddha Sangsad, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani, all from Dhaka.

## Now it's Dravid's just because some of the regular players

are unavailable."

Former captain Sourav Ganguly does not find a place in the team despite being one of only four batsmen in the world to score more than 10,000 one-

play on Wednesday with Suresh Raina being the likely super-sub. India are due to play five one-dayers against South Africa at home later this month. This will be followed by Test

Dravid's omission means

Tendulkar, Pathan and Harbhajan will

## CCL comes back FROM PAGE 12

series against Sri Lanka, Pakistan,

England and the West Indies till July.

declared as no result and the teams will be awarded one point each. The semifinals will now be held on November 15 at Fatullah and the

Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, which

will also host the November 17 final. Meanwhile, the four semifinalists will be allowed to field one foreign player.

POINTS TABLE						
Group A						
Teams	M	W	L	Т	MA	Pts
Biman	3	2	0	0	1	5
Beximco	3	2	0	0	1	5
Acme	3	1	1	0	1	3
Jamuna	3	1	1	0	1	3
Metro Real	3	0	2	0	1	1
Orion	3	0	2	0	1	1
Group B						
Epyllion	3	2	0	0	1	5
Gazi Tank	3	2	0	0	1	5
Araf	3	1	1	0	1	3
Ispahani	3	1	1	0	1	3
Coourity Air	2	4	2	Λ	^	2

Bangla Cat 3 0 3 0 0

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

DOWN

Slithery

21 Last

words?

Spanish

Douce'

steve-

dore's

45 Slippery

bananas?

22 19th remark cars squeezer 35 PC Amend-4 Star 2 Six-pack, followers ment benpicture maybe 36 "You Light 8 "Wheel of 3 Stupefy eficiaries Fortune Up My Earn 23 Change Settled 25 Marguand 12 Old, in singer down 37 Move like 6 Antacid 26 Bewilders 13 Lotus a snake target 40 Filmdom's 7 Squid 27 Press model "Elephant 14 Seeger or 8 Less Sampras 41 Do the job plentiful last 30 "Phooey! 15 One of the 42 Constrict Llama stars of 46 Pinnacle territory 33 Con-"M\*A\*S\*H" 47 "Skedad-10 Particular nected 34 Mongo-17 Neigh-11 Tide borhood 48 Anonylian type 16 Flightless 18 Leave out mous desert 19 "The John flock 36 Mun-

49 Motivate Appren-19 "Aeneid" 50 Stitched 20 Prima 37 Booty bigwig 20 Sinker 22 Sported Solution time: 25 mins. 24 Wading 39 "— La bird 25 Track **40** Do a transport 29 Sightrelated 42 Ninny (Abbr.) 30 Cozy 43 The **31** Box-44 Sticky office

# **CRYPTOQUIP** V M M D G V ' R

ZJMZHZW MEZDH EPORZ, D APJWZH DN REZ APOGW

REPOM "ED, EOJ, D'F EPFZ!" Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SUPERHERO'S POWERS CAME FROM APPLE PRODUCTS, I BET HE WOULD BE NAMED CIDER-MAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals M

The Cryptoquip 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.