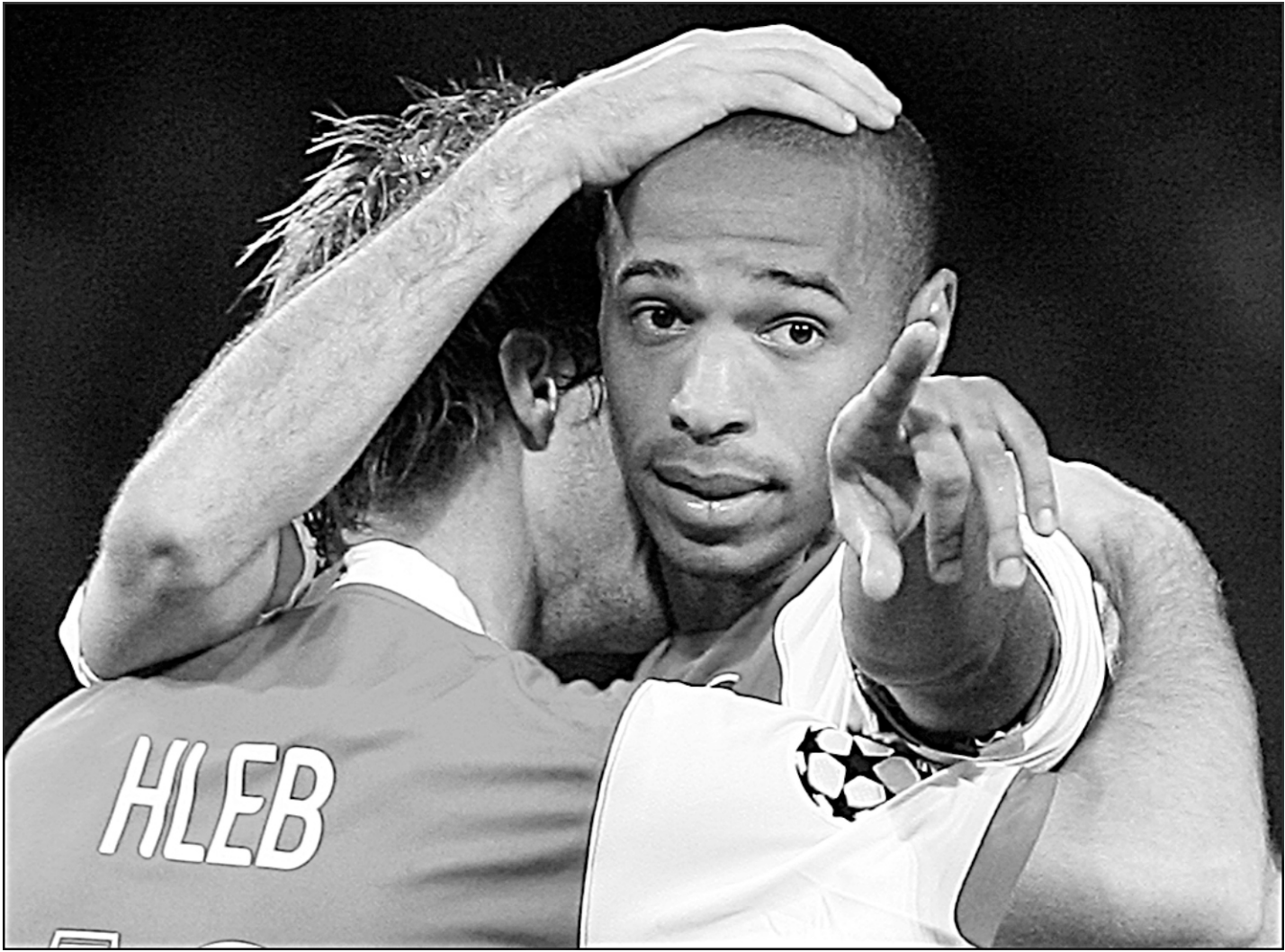




THAT ONES FOR YOU: Arsenal captain Thierry Henry (R) points to the bench as he hugs teammate Alexander Hleb following his strike against FC Porto in their Champions League clash at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday.

Super Henry shoots Porto

AFP, London



Thierry Henry led by example as Arsenal cruised to a 2-0 Champions League win against Porto on Tuesday.

The Arsenal captain was at his effervescent best as he scored the first goal and laid on the second for Alexandr Hleb to ensure Arsene Wenger's side stayed top of Group G with a 100 percent record.

The north London club, who were beaten finalists last season, are beginning to hit their stride after a slow start to the season and have now reeled off four successive wins in all competitions.

Wenger, who celebrates ten years in charge of Arsenal on Thursday, was forced into a late change with Justin Hoyte replacing Johan Djourou after the Swiss defender aggravated a foot injury in the pre-match warm-up.

Arsenal started brightly despite that setback and Robin van Persie

forced Helton into action with a fierce long-range effort that the Porto goalkeeper turned away for a corner.

The Gunners thought they had the lead from the resulting set-piece when Gilberto Silva's header was hooked back from the touch-line by Cesc Fabregas.

Kolo Toure pounced to beat Helton from close range but the referee's assistant signalled that the ball had gone out of play before Fabregas made contact.

Porto's Brazilian midfielder Anderson is regarded as one of the best young players in Europe and the 18-year-old has already attracted interest from Barcelona and Chelsea.

Anderson gave a glimpse of his precocious talent in the 15th minute with a perfectly-placed corner which picked out Lucho Gonzalez at the near post, but his shot was blocked by Jens Lehmann with his legs.

Wenger's frustration at that anxious moment was clear when he leapt from the bench to chastise

Italian referee Stefano Farina for awarding a foul against Tomas Rosicky.

As if sensing his manager's desire to raise the tempo, Henry finally came to life and surged through the Porto defence before producing a slide-rule pass to pick out van Persie.

The Dutch striker was in yards of space on the right of the penalty area but made a complete hash of a glorious chance as he lashed his shot well over.

Van Persie was denied by Helton soon afterwards as Arsenal began to move through the gears and they took the lead with a simple, yet stunning, goal in the 38th minute.

Emmanuel Eboue made a powerful run down the right and whipped in a superb cross towards Henry, who got behind Pepe to direct his header back past Helton into the far corner.

Henry turned provider three minutes after the break as Arsenal doubled their lead with another clinically taken goal.

Arsenal defender William Gallas, who had scored his first goal for the club on Saturday, loves to break forward when the opportunity arises and the Frenchman embarked on one of his trademark runs in the 48th minute.

Gallas dribbled past three defenders before laying the ball off to Henry, who looked up and flicked a pass to the unmarked Hleb.

The Belarus winger had plenty of time to pick his spot and drilled a low shot past Helton from just inside the penalty area for his first goal of the season.

Porto, who won the Champions League in 2004, did the Portuguese league and cup double last season but Jesualdo Ferreira's side were unable to contain Arsenal's fluid passing and movement.

They never threatened to get back into the match and, after only drawing their opening fixture against CSKA Moscow, will have to improve dramatically to avoid a repeat of last seasons group stage exit.

Scholes in hot water

INTERNET, undated

Gay rights campaigners have urged Paul Scholes to apologise after the Manchester United midfielder allegedly made a homophobic remark during the Champions League victory over Benfica.

The 31-year-old former England international is alleged to have made the comment after receiving a yellow card from referee Frank De Bleeckere in the 10th minute of last night's clash at the Stadium of Light.

UEFA are waiting for reports from the match delegate and the referee before they decide whether to address the complaints, although they are unlikely to take action if the incident is not reported. They expect the report on Thursday.

Peter Tatchell, of gay human rights group OutRage!, said: "We urge Paul to apologise and to express his opposition to homophobia."

'No player, referee or fan should have to endure abuse about their race or sexuality.'

'There should be big fines and match suspensions for players, managers and supporters who wilfully use anti-gay insults.'

'Stewards should be ordered to identify fans who shout homophobic abuse and the Football Association should secure the agreement of the police to arrest and charge them.'

Tatchell called for Scholes to attend a training course on homophobia if he is found to have made the remark, while also urging the Football Association to tackle the problem in the game.

The FA set up the 'Football For All' scheme four years ago to make the sport as accessible as possible, encompassing a number of problem areas, including homophobia.

'The Football Association works very closely with a number of group to stamp out inappropriate behaviour in the sport,' an FA spokesperson said.

Ancelotti happy despite draw

AFP, Lens



Coach Carlo Ancelotti was satisfied with AC Milan's performance despite a goalless draw away to Lille in Champions League Group H on Tuesday.

"It was an excellent performance from AC Milan, we had very good chances," he told reporters.

Milan, who started their European campaign brightly with a 3-0 win over AEK Athens two weeks ago, have failed to score in their last two matches.

They have only netted five goals in their four first Serie A matches and

seem to be sorely missing Ukraine striker Andriy Shevchenko, who has scored 57 goals in the European Cup but now plies his trade with English champions Chelsea.

His replacement, Brazilian Ricardo Oliveira, is much less prolific while Alberto Gilardino has yet to score after 13 Champions League appearances for the six-times European champions. Only Filippo Inzaghi, 33, is a proven match-winner.

However, Ancelotti was unfazed, adding: "It was not an easy match. I am satisfied with our display tonight. It is true we have not scored but we have had opportunities."

Their clearest chance came after 52 minutes when midfielder Clarence Seedorf had a goal harshly dis-

allowed for offside.

Ancelotti's counterpart, Claude Puel, praised his players for their watertight performance after Lille had conceded seven goals in their last two Ligue 1 games.

"We played a great match and we still have chances to qualify (for the knockout stages)," he said.

"Tonight, the players have learnt a lot and it is very interesting for the future of this squad."

Fullback Mathieu Chalmé added: "We did what we had to do. It's a good 0-0 draw. If we grab three points against AEK Athens we will be in a good position."



EL GORDO RETURNS: Brazilian legend Ronaldo (L) traps a ball on his return for Real Madrid in their Champions League match against Dynamo Kiev at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid on Tuesday.

Boca ponder 'La Bombonera' replacement

Football

AP, Buenos Aires

It's nicknamed "The Chocolate Box" for its small, squarish design - a mythic stadium that Boca Juniors inaugurated 66 years ago and still intimidates many rival teams.

Now officials say they must seriously consider a bigger replacement for "La Bombonera."

The stadium that has been home to a record 16 major international titles, has a capacity of 55,000. Yet with a growing fan base along and an increasing demand for tickets, it is becoming a tighter squeeze in the days of modern mega-stadiums.

The next two years will be important, and club officials emphasise nothing has been decided with regard to a new 60,000-70,000 capacity building.

"With a new stadium ... the club would have more revenue," Boca vice president Pedro Pompilio told one television station Monday.

Easily one of South America's

most popular clubs, Boca could use more room to accommodate a growing legion of fans.

Winning the Recopa crown -- South America's Super Cup -- earlier this month over reigning Club World Champion Sao Paulo only added to Boca's international appeal, which includes fans as far off as Asia.

But with new regulations expected in 2008 likely to include a requirement for all-seat stadiums, "La Bombonera" would be reduced to a capacity of 30,000. Surrounded by homes and other nearby buildings, an expansion is not feasible.

Opened in May 1940 in the picturesque La Boca neighbourhood near the Buenos Aires waterfront, close to the muddy River Plate, the arena is formally named for Alberto J. Armando, a former club president.

But most only know its nickname and fearsome reputation as one of the most daunting and boisterous stadiums in Latin America.

It is a major tourist attraction, situated in a neighbourhood of

brightly coloured wooden-shingled homes -- many painted Boca blue and yellow. The stadium's boxy design makes for a unique sporting spectacle.

The stadium's atmosphere, history and home-field advantage make it difficult for some to consider leaving.

"I would never want to leave 'La Bombonera' because this is the perfect stadium for soccer," Pompilio said. "But if Boca today should consider a stadium seating 60,000 or 70,000 people, they will fill the stands because there is just an incredible number of fans who want to attend the games."

Modern-day stadiums are bigger with more amenities, and Boca officials said two possible locales already have been identified in the Argentine capital.

Still, Pompilio said, any decision would have to be vetted by paying ticket members -- called "associates" -- perhaps in a referendum late in 2007. But even mentioning the issue draws criticism.

Taxi driver Jorge Scalise, like many Boca fans, adamantly

opposes moving.

"It would be a real shame," Scalise said. "This is a place where Boca has won many championship titles. But, well, if they have to move, I will follow them anywhere."

Some fans at cross-town rivals River Plate who have won a record 32 Argentine league titles, 10 more than Boca -- said they would gladly say good riddance to "La Bombonera."

They play in Monumental Stadium, a 60,000-capacity arena built for the 1978 World Cup won by Argentina.

"That would be great if River doesn't have to play any more in that stadium," said River fan Ruben Moroni, not mentioning "La Bombonera" by name because of some stingy River losses there.

Jorge Zunino, an elderly Boca fan, said he hoped the talk would lead nowhere.

"Truth be told, that would be very painful to see Boca pull out. I've been going to 'La Bombonera' since I was 14 years old and have celebrated so many victories there," he said. "It will be a sad day when the stadium is no more."

Reading to woo Adu

AFP, London

English Premiership newcomers Reading are set to swoop for Ghana-born US footballing prodigy Freddy Adu.

Reading boss Steve Coppell, who already has Americans Bobby Convey and Marcus Hahnemann on the books, wants the 17-year-old midfielder, who has been in outstanding form for US Major League Soccer's DC United, on a six-month loan from January with a view to a five-million-pound permanent deal next summer.

Major League Soccer (MLS) owns the contracts of all their players and see Adu's move as a boost to their world standing.

The Sun tabloid quoted an MLS source as saying: "If an offer comes in for Freddy it will be considered."

"The player's wishes and desires would be involved in the process," he told the daily on Wednesday.

Adu has been touted as a hot property since his MLS debut in 2004 aged just 14, making him the youngest-ever professional in American sport history.

He also became USA's youngest international earlier this year and ran rings round Celtic in a summer friendly, scoring in DC United's 4-0 romp.

Stadium ban for Catania

AFP, Rome

Italian Serie A newcomers Catania have been hit with a two-match stadium ban following the "unacceptable" behaviour of their rowdy fans during the Sicilian derby with Messina on Saturday.

According to the league's disciplinary committee on Tuesday the Catania supporters were guilty of "unspeakable acts of violence before and after the match", which finished 2-2.

Catania supporters clashed with local police, who were forced to resort to using pepper spray as they fought off missiles thrown their way in clashes outside the stadium after the match.

Only three people were arrested, however one local municipal official said it was more like a war zone than a football match.

"You would have thought we were in Lebanon," said Michele Capomacchia.

Last Wednesday, another local derby between Palermo and Catania 50 people including five policemen, were injured following violent clashes.

On that occasion five people were arrested.

The sanction means Catania will have to play their next two matches behind closed doors.

Ronaldo returns

REUTERS, Madrid

Brazil striker Ronaldo made his first appearance for Real Madrid since April when he came on as a second-half substitute in their Champions League Group E match against Dynamo Kiev on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old missed the end of last season after he suffered a thigh injury but recovered in time to play for Brazil to play in the World Cup.

He underwent surgery on his left knee in July and was originally expected to be out of action for three weeks.

AFP, Bucharest



French champions Lyon continued their strong tradition in the Champions League with a convincing 3-0 away victory over Steaua Bucharest here Tuesday.

Brazilian forward Fred gave Gerard Houllier's men a half-time breather with the opener two minutes before the interval.

Only ten minutes after the restart, Tiago doubled their lead to which was added another goal in the last minute of regulation time by late substitute Karim Benzema.

Lyon, who have made it to the quarter-finals of Europe's premier club competition for the past three seasons, now have two wins from two games so far and top the group having beat Real Madrid 2-0 in France two weeks ago.

Lyon manager Houllier will be hoping his side can now build the momentum to finally make it past the quarterfinals.

But he is now buoyed, and feeling confident for the future.

"I'm extremely happy with the result and the performance," he said.

"We played some great football and kept our cool. I think we've got half of our ticket for the last 16 in our pocket because we've got four matches left and if we get six points from them then we're qualified."

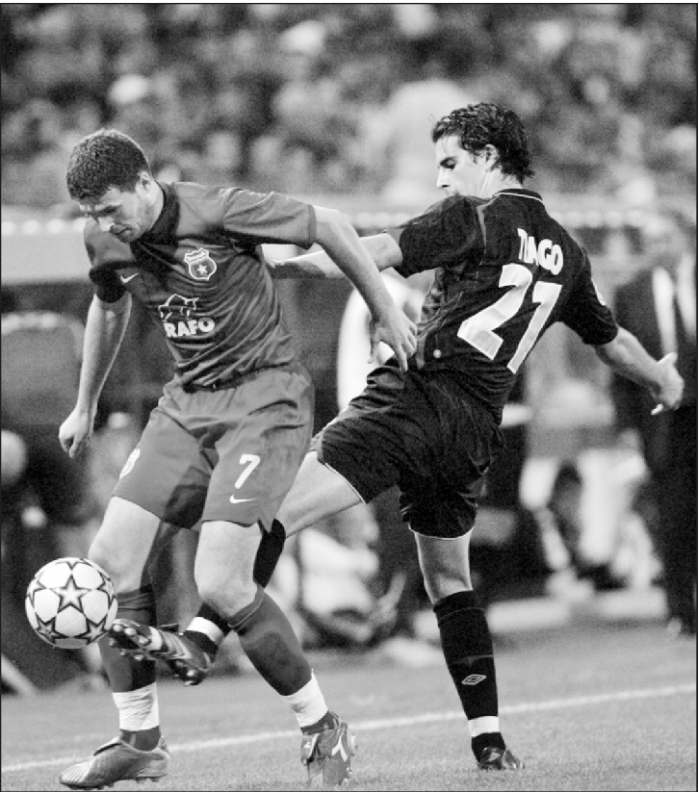
Despite this defeat Steaua, playing their first game at their revamped stadium in nine months, maintained their chances of staying in the competition thanks to their 4-1 away hammering of Dynamo Kiev two weeks ago.

Lyon sit top with two wins from two games with Real Madrid in second and just ahead of the Romanian champions on goals difference.

Steaua coach Cosmin Olariu could only concede his side's domination.

"We were up against a team that was very organised and which gave us few openings," he said.

"The first goal made it hard for us, but despite their two other goals I don't think the scoreline was a true reflection of the match."



Lyon's central midfielder Tiago tries to win the ball in a tussle from Steaua Bucharest's Daniel Oprită in their Champions League encounter in Bucharest on Tuesday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 43 Earth (Pref.) | DOWN | 21 Old French coin |
| 1 Columbus Day mo. | 44 Clone | 1 News-paper page | 23 Sphere |
| 4 Pouch | 46 Neckwear | 2 "The Da Vinci —" | 25 Troubadour's accompaniment |
| 7 News, briefly | 50 Saxophone range | 3 Forum garb | 26 Winged |
| 11 "Winnie-the —" | 53 CSA soldier | 4 Bawl | 27 Back talk |
| 13 Bob of CBS | 55 Therefore | 5 Desertlike | 28 Suitable |
| 14 Deposited | 56 Amateur noise | 6 Frog | 29 Mideast gulf |
| 15 Rim | 57 Slick night | 7 "Maybe" | 30 Fork-tailed bird |
| 16 Life story | 58 Have coming | 8 Yea | 31 "— your old man!" |
| 17 Ancient instrument | 59 Sgt. | 9 Ever-green | 35 Peruke |
| 18 Handed out hands | 60 Conclusion | 10 Tribute in verse | 36 Deviate off course |
| 20 Morse symbol | 61 Spelling contest | 11 Classic dog | 40 Afternoon affair |
| 22 Writer | | 12 Jim Reeves song | 42 Mournful music |
| 24 Eucalyptus eaters | | 13 Links prop | 45 Night light? |
| 28 Mid-June honorees | | | 47 Grouch |
| 32 Throat dangle | | | 48 Storybook villain |
| 33 Notion | | | 49 Color quality |
| 34 Arrow launcher | | | 50 Past |
| 36 Greek vowels | | | 51 Sodom evacuee |
| 37 Brash | | | 52 Blasting stick |
| 39 Temporary caregivers | | | 54 Physique |
| 41 Group of nine | | | |

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59					60				61		

CRYPTOQUIP
AKPNSVK GEK PENXPVK NTK
HJJZ LJS'DD JXK ZNL
AK N GESH, W TKPUJX
LJS'TKN DWUKDL EJJZ.

Saturday's Cryptquip: IF ACTRESS ANN OFFERS PEOPLE GREAT SOLACE, ONE MIGHT REFER TO THAT AS SOTHERN COMFORT.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: D equals L

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.