



Stuttgart midfielder Christian Gentner (R) is in pursuit of the ball alongside Hertha Berlin hardman Andreas Schmidt during their Bundesliga encounter at Stuttgart on Friday.

## Zidane, Ronaldo headline Match Against Poverty

AFP, Marseille

Football legends Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo will each captain a team in the fourth edition of the Match Against Poverty to be held at the Stade Velodrome on March 19.

Former France captain Zidane and AC Milan striker Ronaldo, who are both Goodwill Ambassadors for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), have been the driving forces behind this initiative since 2003.

A statement issued by Marseille Town Hall promised that several "star footballers" would play alongside the pair, without giving details.

The match will be the first played in Europe by Zidane since his international retirement after the 2006 World Cup final.

"I have retired from professional football, but I am determined to continue playing in my capacity as UNDP Goodwill Ambassador for such a good cause, and to contribute to this annual gathering with my friend Ronaldo," said Zidane.

Proceeds from the first three matches benefited anti-poverty projects ranging from support to female entrepreneurs to the construction of sports centres for street children in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

## Banned for butting ref

AFP, Paris

The captain of a French amateur football team has been banned for six years for head-butting a referee during a local league game.

"The player is banned for six years. He can neither play nor officiate," said Remi Semeria, the president of the championship in Dinan.

The 28-year-old player's club, Aucaleuc, was also sanctioned.

It was docked five points and ordered to pay a 500-euro fine.

The incident took place in January when the referee was attacked after showing the player a red card.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

