



AC Milan's veteran defender Paolo Maldini (R) and coach Carlo Ancelotti answers questions during a press conference in Munich on Tuesday. Milan will take on Bayern Munich tonight in the Champions League quarterfinal second leg clash.

# Milan banking on Inzaghi

AFP, Munich



AC Milan are facing something of an attacking dilemma as they look for a victory in their Champions League quarterfinal second leg clash at Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

Milan were held to a 2-2 home draw in the first leg and unless they manage a high-scoring draw, a victory will be needed at the Allianz Arena if the 2003 champions are to make it to the semifinals, against either Manchester United or Roma.

But Milan have attacking problems with Ronaldo cup-tied due to his earlier involvement with Real Madrid, Antonio Gildardino suspended and Brazilian Ricardo Oliveira out of form.

That leaves only veteran Italy forward Filippo Inzaghi as the man coach Carlo Ancelotti will be relying on to fire his side past the German

champions.

But Inzaghi, suffering from a thigh problem, is far from fully fit and certainly not assured to take to the field on Wednesday.

"Inzaghi will do everything possible to play. His qualities and experience could prove decisive in Munich," said Ancelotti of the 33-year-old.

Whether or not Inzaghi is fit to play, a lot of responsibility will rest on the shoulders of 24-year-old Brazilian playmaker Kaka.

The attacking midfielder is having his best season yet and is the club's top goalscorer.

It was his goal early in extra-time that saw Milan past Celtic in the previous round and Kaka also notched a penalty at the San Siro in the first leg against Bayern.

"He is irreplaceable and as long as he doesn't show signs of tiredness, he will play all the time," said Ancelotti.

Kaka is confident his teammates will do enough to win in Munich, despite twice losing leads in the first

leg as Bayern hit back with two goals from an unlikely source, Belgian centre-back Daniel Van Buyten.

"I believe we can win in Munich. I feel that this could become a historic night for us," said the Brazilian.

He has good reason to feel confident, despite his side conceding home field advantage and knowing a draw -- unless it is 2-2 or higher -- will not be enough to prolong their European adventure this season.

Milan may be languishing in fifth in their domestic league but they were docked eight points before the season began and would otherwise be only goal difference off third place.

As for Munich, their league form has been patchy all season and they sit fourth in the German table with a battle on their hands to make the top three and qualify for next season's Champions League.

They also laboured to a 2-1 win at lowly Hanover on Saturday.

"We'll have to play 50 percent

better than that against Milan," coach Ottmar Hitzfeld reflected afterwards.

Hitzfeld has great experience in this competition, guiding Borussia Dortmund to the title in 1997 and then leading Bayern -- in his first stint at the helm -- to the crown in 2001.

Bayern have not even reached the semi-finals since then and confidence is in short supply throughout the club.

Even general manager Uli Hoeness is not willing to look too far ahead of Wednesday's game.

"We can approach Milan in confident mood. We have a 50:50 chance. That's a realistic estimate," he said in somewhat contradictory fashion.

For the home side to say it is feeling "confident" but rating it's chances as only 50:50 of earning the draw that will probably suffice to take them into the last four is not what would be expected of one of European football's giants.

## Hertha sack coach

AFP, Berlin

Hertha Berlin, who have not won any of their last eight matches, have sacked coach Falko Gotz, the German first division club said on Tuesday.

Berlin were on top of the Bundesliga in October but are now down in ninth spot and, more ominously, are only five points ahead of the relegation zone.

The 45-year-old Gotz will be replaced by second team coach Karsten Heinke who has already had two previous spells at the helm of the club.

## Palop out for Spurs tie

AFP, Sevilla

Sevilla goalkeeper Andres Palop will not be fit in time to face Tottenham Hotspur in their UEFA Cup quarterfinal, second leg match on Thursday, the Spanish club said here Tuesday.

Palop aggravated a left calf strain during last Thursday's first leg, which Sevilla won 2-1.

His absence will be a big blow for Sevilla coach Juande Ramos as Palop has been one of the inspirations behind Sevilla's stunning season and they are the only Spanish side still contesting three titles.

In addition to still being in the UEFA Cup, Sevilla are second in La Liga and have reached the Spanish Cup semifinals.

Palop saved Sevilla in the last round of the UEFA Cup with a headed goal in the dying second of normal time at Ukrainian side Shakhtar Donetsk, which forced extra-time in which Sevilla grabbed a winner.

He will be replaced by former Real Madrid reserve David Cobeno.

Ramos will also be without his Uruguayan backup striker Ernesto Chevanton, who has a right thigh strain sustained in the 0-0 draw with Racing Santander on Sunday.

However, Brazilian striker Luis Fabiano will return to the squad after being banned for the first leg.

# Wenger demands fourth spot

AFP, Newcastle



Arsene Wenger knows better than most the importance of Champions League football to Arsenal and the prospect of missing out next season must send shivers down the spine of the French coach.

In the wake of an uninspiring draw at mid-table Newcastle it was only natural that the Gunners' manager was already focusing on a potentially decisive fixture against Bolton Wanderers at the Emirates Stadium next weekend.

Fourth hosts fifth and the winners will have every right to feel confident of entering Champions League qualification in August.

Arsenal remain two points clear of Wanderers, after Sam Allardyce's men could only manage a 1-1 draw with Everton at the Reebok Stadium on Monday, and Wenger believes that advantage will be enough come the end of a disappointing campaign

for the north London club.

"It's very important for the players, the supporters and everyone at the club that we finish fourth this season," he said. "We're used to being there and we want to be there again. That's only natural but I know how much it means.

"We're looking ahead to the Bolton game and it's up to us to score the goals we need to win that game. I'm confident that we will. I'm not worried about the lack of goals -- the Newcastle game was all about rebuilding our confidence after three successive Premiership defeats.

"Bolton had an opportunity to draw level with us but they could only manage a draw with Everton and that result keeps them at a fair distance. It's up to us to maintain that advantage on Saturday."

Europe, surprisingly, is still on the minds of a Newcastle team which bowed out of this season's UEFA Cup last month and is now seeking an immediate return to the competition via the Intertoto Cup.

United's point against Arsenal saw the Magpies move into 10th

position and it is widely accepted that a top seven finish will guarantee entry into the feeder tournament for the 2007-08 UEFA Cup.

"A draw against Arsenal was a fair result and we're happy with a point," said Newcastle's Peru midfielder Nolberto Solano.

The former Boca Juniors full back blocked a brace of Gilberto Silva shots on the goal-line six minutes from time to guarantee United a share of the spoils.

And the experienced South American added: "We believe in ourselves again and we have gained a little bit of confidence over the Easter period.

"Now we're only looking forward to the Intertoto Cup. That's our target."

A game of few chances at a sun-baked St James' Park was notable for the first half withdrawal of Newcastle goalkeeper Shay Given and a contentious United penalty claim in the closing stages.



France and Arsenal striker Thierry Henry (L) finds himself at the centre of attention from the British press during the launch of a Reebok advertising campaign in South London on Tuesday.

## Vigo fire Vazquez

AFP, Madrid

Fernando Vazquez was on Monday fired by Celta Vigo, the Spanish first division club said.

Vazquez was in his third season at the club having earned them promotion from the second division in his first year in charge before guiding the club to a sixth place finish last year.

But they have struggled this season and currently sit in the relegation zone.

## Vaughan leaves hospital

AFP, Bolton

Everton striker James Vaughan, who severed an artery in his left leg during his side's 1-1 draw at Bolton, was released from hospital on Tuesday.

Vaughan, 18, was rushed to hospital after suffering the injury in a challenge with Abdoulaye Meite midway through the second half at the Reebok Stadium clash on Monday.

The teenager had scored Everton's equaliser in the 33rd minute after Kevin Davies had put Bolton in front. Doctors decided to release Vaughan from hospital after X-rays showed no bone or ligament damage.

## Guidolin keeps Palermo job

INTERNET, undated

Francesco Guidolin will remain at the helm of Palermo after chief Maurizio Zamparini made a surprising U-turn on Monday.

The fiery President was furious after Saturday's 3-1 home defeat to Cagliari and stated that it was Guidolin's last day on the bench.

Zamparini, however, spoke with sporting director Rino Foschi on Monday and declared that the Coach will end the season with the Sicilian club -- no matter what happens.

"The previous statements were due to the fact that I was mad, but Guidolin will stay," confirmed the outspoken patron.

"He will end the season with us. I think this is the right thing to do, no matter what the results are like. The technical staff will not change and we will try to understand what the problem is.

"On Wednesday Palermo will go on 'ritiro' to the Garda Lake. I will join the team and discuss the next moves with the Coach."

Foschi also confirmed the club's renewed trust in the former Udinese boss and believes the team can do well before the end of the campaign.

"There are no problems at all, I spoke to Guidolin at lunchtime after discussions with Zamparini, who is on vacation. This isn't an easy moment, but there will be no changes," said the official.

"The next seven matches before the end of the season will be very difficult, starting with the game against Inter on Sunday.

"Our championship is not over, we must try to reach our objectives. At the end, as at every club, there will be time to evaluate the situation and assess the season's results," concluded Foschi.

Palermo have earned just 10 points from the last 12 rounds and their fourth place in the table is under threat from Milan, Empoli and Fiorentina.

Bolton missed a chance to increase the pressure on Arsenal as Everton fought back to draw 1-1 at the Reebok Stadium.

## Fulham in the doghouse

AFP, London

Fulham boss Chris Coleman is facing up to a dogfight for survival in the English Premiership -- with the Cottagers fans turning their fire on his troops.

Coleman told his charges to get ready for the battle of their lives if they want to stay in the big time and keep the boo-boys off their backs.

"When you are in a dogfight you have to fight like dogs. If it is a gun-fight you can't afford to go in with just a knife," the 36-year-old Welshman said.

"It is only results that are important now and it doesn't matter how we get them. I will take being booed for being boring or whatever but we know we have good players. Now they have all got to become scrappers as well.

"We've got to believe we can stay in the Premiership this season. We've got to get the points we need and the players know full well the position we are in."

Fulham lost 3-1 to visitors Manchester City at Craven Cottage on Monday, their fifth defeat in a winless eight-match streak that left them four points above the relegation zone.

Coleman and the Cottagers were booed as the players trudged off.

Fulham visit Reading on Sunday, and must also face Champions League spot chasers Arsenal and Liverpool in thier remaining five games.

# Inter to keep Crespo

INTERNET, undated



The Argentine is owned by Chelsea, whom he is contracted to until 2008, but has made no secret of his desire to remain in Serie A after loan spells with firstly Milan and now the Nerazzurri.

La Gazzetta dello Sport claims that Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich is ready to release the striker who recently insisted that he

wanted to end his career with his present Italian club.

"If I receive an offer to stay at Inter and end my career here, then I will put pen to paper tomorrow," the South American said recently.

As a result, it is understood that Crespo will be offered a two-year Nerazzurri deal at the end of the present campaign.

The much-travelled attacker joined Inter last summer in an agreement which did give the London club an option to recall him at the end of the 2006-07 season.

Meanwhile, Inter are also preparing to lure Deco from Barcelona as they search for a replacement for the departing Luis Figo.

The Portuguese star has con-

firmed that he will leave Italy in July to join Arabian club Al-Ittihad and the Via Durini outfit are looking at possible alternatives.

Lionel Messi of Barcelona and Ricardo Quaresma of Porto are the first names on the club's wish list, but Deco is also a target because of his midfield versatility.

The Brazilian is contracted until 2010 and has a massive £53m rescission clause, but reports suggest the Blaugrana might be willing to sell at a much lower price given that he is approaching his 30th birthday.

# Magpies hold Gunners

AFP, London



Arsenal's Champions League hopes are still in the balance after they were forced to settle for a 0-0 draw at Newcastle on Monday.

Arsene Wenger's side remain in fourth place but they are just two points ahead of Bolton, who visit the Emirates Stadium in a crunch clash on Saturday.

Arsenal have gone four matches without a win and, although they ended a run of three successive defeats, they are stumbling at the wrong time. Failure to qualify for Europe's elite club competition would be a financial and footballing calamity for the London club, but they must improve quickly to avoid that scenario becoming a reality.

There was little to cheer Wenger at St James' Park as his team struggled to overcome resilient Newcastle in a scrappy encounter.

Newcastle went closest when James Milner hit the bar, although Arsenal could have won it late on when Nolberto Solano made a double goalline clearance to deny Gilberto Silva and then substitute Jeremie Aladiere.

Bolton missed a chance to increase the pressure on Arsenal as Everton fought back to draw 1-1 at the Reebok Stadium.

Sam Allardyce's side could have moved level on points with the Gunners with a win and they were on course after 18 minutes.

Joleon Lescott played Kevin Davies outside from Ivan Campo's free-kick and the striker controlled on his chest before firing home from close range.

But Everton hit back and equalised in the 33rd minute through James Vaughan. His initial shot was blocked but the rebound fell kindly for the young striker and he drove past Jussi Jaaskelainen. That was as good as it got for Vaughan though as he later needed hospital treatment after severing an artery.

Struggling Wigan held on for a vital 1-1 draw at Aston Villa despite Antonio Valencia's first half red card.

The hard-earned point allowed Paul Jewell's 10 men to move three points clear of third bottom Sheffield United as they scrap to stay up.

Emile Heskey had put Wigan ahead against the run of play in the 21st minute. Denny Landzaat curled in a corner and Lee McCulloch headed on to Heskey, who finished from close range.

Valencia was sent off late in the first half for a two-footed lunge on Wilfried Bouma. Villa piled on the pressure and Gabriel Agbonlahor levelled five minutes into the second half.

Manchester City eased their relegation fears with a 3-1 win at Fulham that left the hosts deep in

trouble themselves.

Chris Coleman's side are without a victory in eight matches and remain just four points from the drop zone, while City are now edging towards mid-table safety.

Joey Barton drilled City into the lead with a fine strike from the edge of the area in the 21st minute. Barton turned provider after 36 minutes when he slipped a pass to DaMarcus Beasley and the American finished well.

City striker Darius Vassell added to Fulham's misery with a third goal in the 59th minute and Carlos Bocanegra's 76th minute header was no consolation for the hosts.

Watford boosted their slender chances of avoiding relegation with a 4-2 win over Portsmouth.

Adrian Boothroyd's side won for just the fourth time in the Premiership this season thanks to a double strike from Hameur Bouazza and goals from Gavin Mahon and Tamas Priskin.

Matt Taylor had given Portsmouth a 16th minute lead but Harry Redknapp's team showed no stomach for a fight and Arnold Mvuemba's late goal was no consolation for the visitors.

Watford are still likely to suffer a quick return to the Championship and they need fellow strugglers Charlton to slip up against Reading in Monday's late match.



Bolton's inspirational striker Nicolas Anelka fends off a challenge from Everton's James Vaughan (R) during Premiership tie at the Reebok Stadium in Bolton on Monday.

**CROSSWORD**  
**By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**  
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5 Bill  
8 Work staff  
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13 Have bills  
14 50 percent (prefix)  
15 Characterization  
16 A Kennedy  
17 Needle holder  
18 Nervous  
20 Comical Caroline  
22 Percussion instrument  
26 Cobbler's creations  
29 Filch  
30 Mauna ---  
31 Caesar co-star  
32 Predicament  
33 Phobia

**DOWN**  
34 Regis and Kelly's network  
35 Do suturing  
36 Bacteria  
37 Green or blue gem  
40 One of the Fab Four  
41 Stubborn  
45 Henry ---  
47 Ant.  
49 Between jobs  
50 Mid-month day  
51 Work with  
52 Approach  
53 Fashion  
54 Part of R.S.V.P.  
55 Ready for anything  
**DOWN**  
1 Goose egg  
2 Word often following "once"  
3 Cleo's water  
4 Summer-time cooler  
5 Clan emblem  
6 Shock partner  
7 Farce setting  
8 Root for  
9 Merchant  
10 Ostrich's cousin  
11 Nintendo product  
19 Petrol  
21 Focal point  
23 Bench-clearer  
24 Linguist  
25 Dumbo's "wings"  
26 Ella's specialty  
27 Vagrant  
28 Busy  
32 Green-eyed  
33 Sensation  
35 Dallas sch.  
36 Wilde-beest  
38 Paycheck increase  
39 Urge  
42 Notion  
43 Bridge coup  
44 Roll-call reply  
45 Energy  
46 Bach-elor's last utterance  
48 Omega precursor

**Solution time: 25 mins.**  

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G	A	M	A	S	A
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**CRYPTOQUIP**  
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U X M I I G K X C C E Z K M I Y Z K  
E Z G X M U A : " M K E Z K N F I I . "  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: DO YOU SUPPOSE A CERTAIN TOY DOG'S SMALL PERFUME BOTTLE MIGHT BE THE MALTESE FLACON?  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: P equals W