



Getafe forward Guiza (R) celebrates with teammate Casquero (C) after scoring the fourth goal in their rout of Barcelona in the semifinals of the Copa Del Rey at the Alfonso Perez Coliseum on Thursday.

### Tevez to leave Hammers?

INTERNET, undated

Carlos Tevez will leave West Ham United at the end of the season even if the Hammers stay in the Premiership, according to media reports.

The Argentine goal ace has even stopped learning English as he does not know if he will still be in England come the start of the new season.

The Sun reports that the 23-year-old striker has already told his Hammers' teammates he will play his last game in a claret and blue shirt against Manchester United on Sunday, as Alan Curbishley's side look to avoid the drop.

After a difficult start to his career in the Premiership, it has been the explosive form of Tevez over recent weeks that has sparked West Ham into life and on their way to survival. But despite the likelihood that the Hammers will stay in the top flight, his future is still very much up in the air.

## Getafe's wonder comeback



AP, Getafe

Getafe trounced Barcelona 4-0 on Thursday to overcome a three-goal deficit and advance to the first Copa del Rey final in their history.

Trailing 5-2 from the first leg, Getafe got two goals from Daniel Guiza and one each from Javi Casquero and Angel Vivar Dorado to advance 6-5 on aggregate.

Getafe will now make a short trip to Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium to play Sevilla in the final on June 23. Sevilla completed a 5-0 aggregate win over Deportivo La Coruna on Wednesday.

"What a match we played. The players, the club and the supporters all deserve it. What a gift. You always have to believe you're capable and you have to go for it," Getafe coach Bernd Schuster told radio station Onda Cero.

Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard

said his team had endured "a very tough night."

"I feel terrible, as do all the players. We left a really bad impression tonight. We began badly from the very first minute and suffered a lot," Rijkaard said. "I'm not ashamed but I have to apologize to all our club members, who will be very disappointed."

Barcelona, who were seeking their first final in Spain's knockout competition since 1998, are still in position to win their third straight league title. They leads La Liga with five games remaining, two points ahead of Real Madrid and four in front of Sevilla. Barca, who did not use Lionel Messi - who scored two first-leg goals, didn't manage a shot on goal in a lifeless first-half display.

Getafe, making their first appearance in the last four of the competition, created several chances early although Guiza was unable to capitalize.

Striker Maris Verpakovskis had an opportunity in the 16th while

left back Javier Paredes wasted another 12 minutes later.

Goalkeeper Albert Jorquera denied Guiza in the 38th minute, but midfielder Casquero capitalized on the ensuing corner, hitting a spinning, bouncing volley into the net for the first goal.

Guiza doubled the lead five minutes later, sending a shot that deflected off defender Gianluca Zambrotta.

Getafe continued to dominate after halftime but Jorquera thwarted Guiza in the 55th and 63rd minutes.

Rijkaard inserted forwards Eidur Gudjohnsen and Javier Saviola only for midfielder Vivar Dorado to score Getafe's third goal in the 71st.

Guiza doubled his tally two minutes later when he burst past Edmilson and volleyed home for the aggregate winner.

Barcelona striker Ernesto Espinosa was suspended which may mean that coach Juande Ramos will have to use Fredi Kanoute, despite his preference to save Malian for the UEFA Cup final because of his chronic groin problem.

Another problem for Ramos is that neither the Spanish international defender Javi Navarro nor reserve goalkeeper David Cobeno, who he is hoping to use against Huelva rather than his first choice keeper Andres Palop, trained on Thursday due to colds.

### England call-up for Owen

AFP, London

Michael Owen will pull on an England shirt for the first time in 10 months as part of a 20-man squad for a 'B' international against Albania on May 25.

The match, at Burnley's Turf Moor stadium, will also mark the return to the international fold of Tottenham defender Ledley King and Manchester United striker Alan Smith following injury-ravaged seasons.

Preston striker David Nugent, who scored on his England debut against Andorra in March, and Blackburn winger David Bentley are also in the squad for a match that forms part of head coach Steve McClaren's preparations for the June 1 friendly against Brazil at the new Wembley and a must-win Euro 2008 qualifier in Estonia four days later.

Unexpected new faces include Everton and Reading defenders Joleon Lescott and Nicky Shorey, and Sheffield United's battling midfielder Phil Jagielka.

With Wayne Rooney suspended for the Estonia match and Everton forward Andrew Johnson out injured, McClaren will be desperate to see Owen performing close to his best, albeit against modest opposition.

### Former star Rincon arrested

AFP, Sao Paulo

Former Colombian footballer Freddy Rincon has been arrested here by federal police at the behest of authorities in Panama as part of a probe into international drug trafficking and money laundering.

According to the Globo website, the 39-year-old former Real Madrid and Corinthians player was arrested at his house and taken to federal police headquarters where he will remain pending a legal decision on an extradition request.

Rincon, who works in Brazil as coach of Sao Bento, is accused of laundering money coming from an international drug trafficking organisation headed by fellow Colombian Pablo Rayo Montano, who was arrested in Brazil last year in a US-led operation.

Rincon has admitted to knowing Montano since his childhood in Colombia and having met up with again in Brazil, but denies accusations that he collaborated with him.

### Gunners sign goalkeeper

AFP, London

Poland international Lukasz Fabianski will be competing with Jens Lehmann for the Arsenal goalkeeping gloves next season, manager Arsene Wenger revealed on Friday.

The Frenchman said the club had reached an agreement which will see the 22-year-old move to London from Legia Warsaw.

"That will be done," said Wenger. "He will be our new goalkeeper. He will join us next year, be in the squad and compete for a position."

"He is one for the future. We have identified him as having all the qualities to challenge here and be one of the future great goalkeepers for Arsenal Football Club."

The capture of Fabianski comes in the wake of Lehmann's recent decision to accept a one-year contract extension, the 37-year-old having failed to persuade the club to offer him a longer deal.

Arsenal, who had been linked with a move for Scotland number one Craig Gordon, also have Spanish goalkeeper Manuel Almunia on their books.

## No favours for Hammers

AFP, London



Manchester United will parade the Premiership trophy to a jubilant Old Trafford on Sunday but manager Sir Alex Ferguson insists it will be business as usual as soon as the whistle goes against relegation-threatened West Ham.

The Hammers, one of only three teams to have beaten Ferguson's men in the league this season, need a point to complete a remarkable escape from relegation on the back of six wins in their last eight matches.

But although Ferguson is a good friend of their manager Alan Curbishley, he acknowledged that United are duty bound to make West Ham's players sweat as profusely as their nervous fans will be as they await news from the Bramall Lane meeting of the two other teams still battling to survive, Sheffield United and Wigan.

"We have to respect the position of the other teams at the bottom," said the Scot. "Paul Jewell has done a fantastic job at Wigan, as has Neil Warnock at Sheffield United. I cannot be putting a team on the pitch that disrespects those teams."

"We also have our own reputation to think about, so although I

am a great friend of Alan Curbishley, he understands the position I am in and knows I will be playing my strongest team on Sunday."

The final day relegation drama has been set up perfectly with all three clubs involved retaining control of their own destiny.

A point would be enough for both West Ham and Sheffield United while Wigan must secure a win to be safe.

Whatever happens it could all be decided by the finest of margins. A one-goal win for Wigan would put them level on points with their hosts with the same goal difference. In that case, Jewell's side would stay up courtesy of their superior goal-scoring record.

If both West Ham and Sheffield Utd lose, the Blades would be favourites to stay up as their goal difference is three goals better than the Londoners going into Sunday's matches.

After playing out a lacklustre goalless draw in midweek, Manchester United and Chelsea have to start regaining sharpness in the build-up to their FA Cup final meeting next week.

At Chelsea in particular there are Wembley places up for grabs as a result of the injuries which will mean Ricardo Carvalho, Michael Ballack and Andriy Shevchenko will miss the showpiece.

England left-back Ashley Cole

## Night racing in Singapore



BBC ONLINE, undated

Singapore will stage a Formula One Grand Prix next year, with the race set to be the first in the sport's history to be held at night.

It will be on a street circuit around the Marina Bay district, and is planned for September or early October.

"Singapore is going to be the leader with the street race at night - we're excited about the idea," said F1 boss Bernie Ecclestone.

"Safety is of paramount concern to all of us," said Singapore's Trade and Industry minister S. Iswaran.

"Therefore, we will proceed

with a night race only if the safety and operational requirements of all parties are fully met - if not, we will revert to a day race.

"(But) a night race will be unique and allow the Singapore event to reach out to television audiences in Asia, Europe and the US."

Singapore will stage the race for five years, with Ecclestone keeping the option to extend the deal for a further five years until 2017.

Ecclestone wants to expand the F1 calendar from 17 to 20 races per season, and the addition of Singapore is the second new race in two days after Valencia joined the circuit on Thursday.

"I am very pleased to welcome Singapore to the F1 family and we look forward to this exotic addition to the championship," said Ecclestone.

"This will be the first fully-lit street race in F1 and as a night race, we anticipate it will quickly estab-

underlined how much the squad had been hurt by the twin blows of losing their Premiership crown to United while going out of the Champions League at the hands of Liverpool.

"It's hard to describe how gutted we are all feeling because we had expectations to win both competitions this season," Cole admitted.

"That's why it would be brilliant to round things off with an FA Cup final victory over Man United. That is what we're focusing on now."

Only freakish results can deny Everton a UEFA Cup spot with Reading, with eighth-placed Reading needing to beat Blackburn away and make up an 11-goal deficit on goal difference for there to be a chance of them missing out.

Tottenham will also clinch a UEFA Cup spot if they manage at least a draw at home to Manchester City, while Bolton must win at home to Aston Villa to be sure of their return to Europe next season.

### FIXTURES

**Sunday (all 1400GMT kick-off)**  
Blackburn v Reading, Bolton v Aston Villa, Chelsea v Everton, Liverpool v Charlton, Manchester Utd v West Ham, Middlesbrough v Fulham, Portsmouth v Arsenal, Sheffield Utd v Wigan, Tottenham v Man City, Watford v Newcastle

## Barca looking to history

AFP, Madrid



League leaders and reigning champions Barcelona will be hoping that history repeats itself against Real Betis on Sunday.

Last season, Barcelona faced the Seville-based club in their own Nou Camp stadium when they were also top of the table but, just like this year, a few below-par results had led some pundits to believe that Barca were wilting.

Barca, however, thrashed Betis 5-1 and never looked back.

Betis coach Luis Fernandez is confident that his side will not be in for a similar thrashing on Sunday after going eight games without a win.

"You would be wrong if you think that Betis are going to let Barcelona walk all over us again," Fernandez said bullishly.

"We are not going to let that happen again. We are going to work hard and going there to pull off something."

"They are the leaders and with good players and we know that they are unbeaten in the league in the Nou Camp this season but we are going there intending to surprise them. I think we can give them a bit of a shock," added Fernandez.

Both Ronaldinho and Lionel Messi were among the scorers last season and could be among Fernandez's principal headaches on Sunday.

Ronaldinho has been a nightmare for Fernandez in the past as well.

Fernandez was the coach at French club Paris St Germain when the Brazilian two-time World Player of the Year was there and he has admitted that he used to lie awake at night wondering which nightclubs Ronaldinho was frequenting.

quoting.

Messi was left out Barcelona for their Spanish club semifinal at Getafe on Thursday.

In addition to giving the Argentine whizz-kid a well earned rest, Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard feared that Messi could have been a target for some brutal tackling by the Madrid-based side following his rough treatment by Real Sociedad in Barca's 2-0 win last Sunday.

Real Madrid moved into second place and are two points adrift of their bitter rivals Barca after a 3-2 win over fellow championship challengers Sevilla last Sunday.

If they are to maintain the pressure then Real will need a good result against Espanyol on Saturday.

The fixture has come at just the

right time as the Barcelona-based club have their eyes on Wednesday's all-Spanish UEFA Cup final rather than La Liga.

Espanyol have several of their key players carrying twinges and coach Ernesto Valverde may take the risk of sending out a second-string side to face Real.

Striker Walter Pandiani has a slightly sprained left ankle, Albert Riera has a bruised shoulder while Ivan De La Pena has only just started training again after being out of action for two weeks following a recent calf injury.

"We want to go out there and score a lot of goals (against Espanyol). But let's not forget that they are also playing at a very good level and deserve respect," said Real defender Sergio Ramos on Thursday.

Former England captain David

Beckham and Brazilian striker Robinho will miss Saturday's games through suspension.

Sevilla lost out last Sunday and slipped back to third but will be hoping to get back on track against near neighbours Recreativo Huelva on Saturday.

Reserve striker Ernesto Chevantonis is suspended which may mean that coach Juande Ramos will have to use Fredi Kanoute, despite his preference to save Malian for the UEFA Cup final because of his chronic groin problem.

Another problem for Ramos is that neither the Spanish international defender Javi Navarro nor reserve goalkeeper David Cobeno, who he is hoping to use against Huelva rather than his first choice keeper Andres Palop, trained on Thursday due to colds.

## Relegation battle heats up

AFP, Rome



The battle to avoid joining Ascoli and Messina on the relegation scrapheap could not be tighter

with eight Serie A teams involved in the survival dogfight.

Just three points separate third from bottom Siena from 11th-placed Cagliari with only three games of the season left.

Tension will be high in Reggio Calabria where Reggina host Chievo with the two teams level on 35 points, one clear of Siena.

Chievo, whose place in Italy's top division is under threat for the first time since the 2001-02 campaign, their first in Serie A, have only won twice on their travels this season.

But coach Luigi Del Neri believes last week's precious 1-0 victory over relegation rivals Parma has filled them with confidence.

"Sunday's match will be like a play-off, but we are in good shape," he said.

"If we play like we did against Parma, there's no way we will be relegated."

Reggina coach Walter Mazzarri,

whose team were deducted 11 points for their role in the Italian match-fixing scandal, expressed his fears about facing Chievo.

"They are playing well at the moment and are probably the worst team for us to face right now," he said. "Their position in the table does not reflect their potential. They are a well organised and very dangerous team."

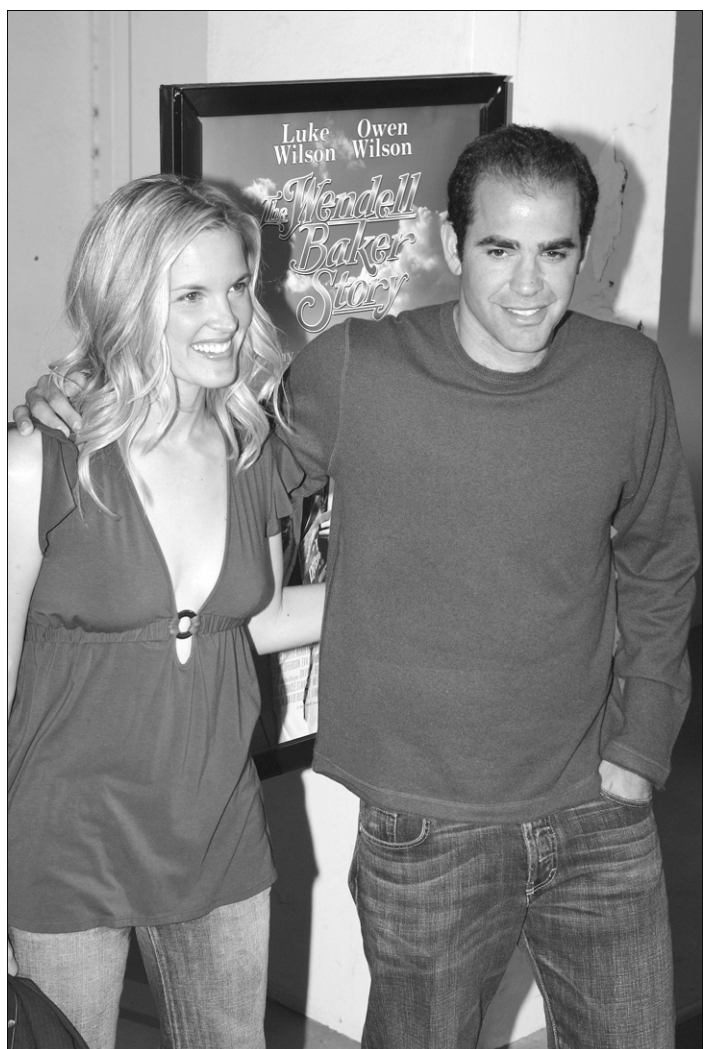
"We will need the support of the crowd, but we have shown in the past that we can cope with the pressure."

AC Milan, who are virtually assured of a top-four finish and have one eye fixed firmly on the Champions League final against Liverpool on May 23, play away to Catania.

The match is being played at Bologna as Catania are banned from playing at their Massimino stadium following the crowd trouble which marred the Sicilian derby against Palermo in February and resulted in the death of a policeman.

While Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti is expected to field a second string side, Catania cannot afford such luxury as they have not yet secured their safety.

Champions Inter Milan, who were humiliated 6-2 by Roma in the first leg of the Italian Cup on Wednesday, host third-placed Lazio at the San Siro.



Tennis legend Pete Sampras (R) and his wife actress Bridgette Wilson arrive at the premiere of "The Wendell Baker Story" at the Writers Guild Theatre in Beverly Hills on Friday.

### FIXTURES

**(Kick-off times in GMT)**  
**Saturday**  
Real Madrid v Espanyol (1800), Sevilla v Recreativo Huelva (2100)  
**Sunday**  
Athletic Bilbao v Deportivo La Coruna (1500), Celta Vigo v Levante (1500), Getafe v Atletico Madrid (1500), Gimnastic Tarragona v Real Sociedad (1500), Osasuna v Villarreal (1500), Racing Santander v Real Mallorca (1500), Barcelona v Real Betis (1700), Valencia v Real Zaragoza (1900)



Spanish star Rafael Nadal plays a forehand return to Russian Mikhail Youzhny at the Rome's Italian Open on Thursday. Nadal won 6-2, 6-2.

### Nadal on course for Rome title

AFP, Rome

Second seed Rafael Nadal, Rome champion for the past two years, eased into the quarterfinals with a straightforward victory over Mikhail Youzhny.

Nadal, who earlier on Thursday went to see a doctor after complaining of dizziness, was a picture of health in a 6-2, 6-2 demolition of the Russian 15th seed.

Nadal's victory extended his record-winning streak on clay to a staggering 74 matches and clinched a last eight meeting with Serbian fifth seed Novak Djokovic.

Winner of three ATP titles this year, Djokovic beat Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis in straight sets.

Nadal said he felt no dizziness in his destruction of Youzhny.

"There were no dizzy spells today," said the 20-year-old Spaniard.

"I felt much better and there were no problems. It was a good day and I'm very happy with the result."

"My game was almost perfect."