



Brazil goal scorers Robinho (L), Juan (C) and Julio Baptista celebrate Juan's goal with teammate Alex (2nd L) during their drubbing of Chile in the quarterfinal of the Copa America in Puerto La Cruz on Saturday.

Tevez to keep his promise

INTERNET, undated

Carlos Tevez won't go back on his promise to Sir Alex Ferguson that he will join Manchester United.

The Argentine striker's representatives will try to finalise his hugely-complicated move to Old Trafford within the next week after the deal reached an impasse on Friday night.

The player's agent, Kia Joorabchian, had hoped to announce that a deal was in place already but has been thwarted by the Premier League's insistence that the transfer is conducted through West Ham.

The Hammers for their part threw the proposed move into turmoil by insisting there is no agreement in place for him to join the champions.

But 23-year-old Tevez has given his word to Ferguson that he will join.

He told The People: "Through my backers, I have given my word to Mr Ferguson. They have told him I will be at Manchester United next season and once I make a promise I don't go back on it.

"There isn't a player who would turn down this opportunity and negotiations are too far advanced to go back now."

Tevez knows West Ham fans won't share his enthusiasm for the move, but says he hopes keeping them in the Premier League will temper their anger.

He added: "I hope the fans understand. I had two very good offers from foreign clubs in January but I refused because I had unfinished business.

"It would have been easy to move on, but I couldn't leave the club and the fans in that predicament.

"It will be an emotional and special day whenever I return to play them."

Venus aiming higher

AFP, London



herself and her women's tennis.

Both sisters endured injury-blighted years in 2006 but Serena returned to win the Australian Open in January, a triumph that her elder sister hailed as the inspiration for her own return to the top at the All England Club.

A straight sets victory over France's Marion Bartoli allowed Venus to add to her 2000, 2001 and 2005 titles on Saturday, taking her tally of Grand Slam titles to six, two behind Serena's haul of eight.

She said: "When it comes to

Wimbledon I have more but in the overall count I have a couple less. When I saw her win in Australia, I knew I could do it. We just love each other and inspire each other like that."

Having missed the second half of last year with a career-threatening wrist injury, Venus had had to endure being written off as a spent force at the age of 27.

But she insisted: "I never doubted myself that I could come back. There was a lot of work behind the scenes. I started in January, I finally got to play in February and step by step I was getting healthier and stronger, getting back to physically the way I was.

"I definitely think Serena and I can play more finals against each other, as long as we have a chance to prepare and stay fit.

"I feel fantastic after my sixth

siam and I want some more. It would have been wonderful if Serena (who lost to Justine Henin in the quarterfinals here) had also got to the final and I think it could happen again, for sure."

Bartoli joked that she had lost because she did not have former James Bond actor Pierce Brosnan cheering her on.

The 22-year-old, who had attributed her semifinal win over Henin to the presence in the crowd of one of her favourite movie stars, revealed that she had received a pre-match bouquet of flowers and a letter of encouragement from Brosnan.

But even that gesture could not give her the ammunition to match Williams's firepower.

"Venus just played some unbelievable tennis," Bartoli said. "She reached balls like I've never seen

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Liverpool in for Quaresma

INTERNET, undated

Liverpool are fighting with Atletico Madrid to try and secure the signing of FC Porto winger Richard Quaresma.

It is well know that the Reds are keen to add wingers to their squad before the start of the season but will have to battle with Atletico for Quaresma, with the Liga side having money to spend after selling Fernando Torres to Rafael Benitez's men for over 20 million dollars.

Porto have confirmed that they have received a bid from Liverpool, thought to be in the region of 14 million dollars, but they are looking for 20 million dollars for the 23 year-old.

"Liverpool made us an offer but it was not enough to even begin talks, so we told them to come back with a better offer if they want Quaresma," a Porto source told the

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Juve chasing Burdisso

INTERNET, undated

Internazionale defender Nicolas Burdisso is on Juventus' wish list as they bolster their defence ahead of a Serie A return.

The Argentinian has rejected a contract extension from the Serie A champions, despite insisting he is happy at the club.

Burdisso's agent Fernando Hidalgo said: "There has been contact with Juventus and their interest in him is real.

Burdisso is a professional and he would stay at Inter for his entire career if it was up to him.

But the present situation is that he has a contract which expires in 2009, but which is relatively low.

Inter have made us a first renewal offer but we have rejected it.

The 26-year-old has impressed at the Giuseppe Meazza since arriving from Boca Juniors, although he has handed a lengthy suspension for his part in Inter's infamous Champions League brawl with Valencia.

Real after Cesc

INTERNET, undated

Real Madrid have risked the wrath of Arsenal and UEFA by reiterating their determination to sign Cesc Fabregas.

"Of course we are interested in Cesc," Mijatovic told Marca. "We've been interested in him for over a year now and we are still interested.

"He is a great player and I expect all the big clubs will be interested."

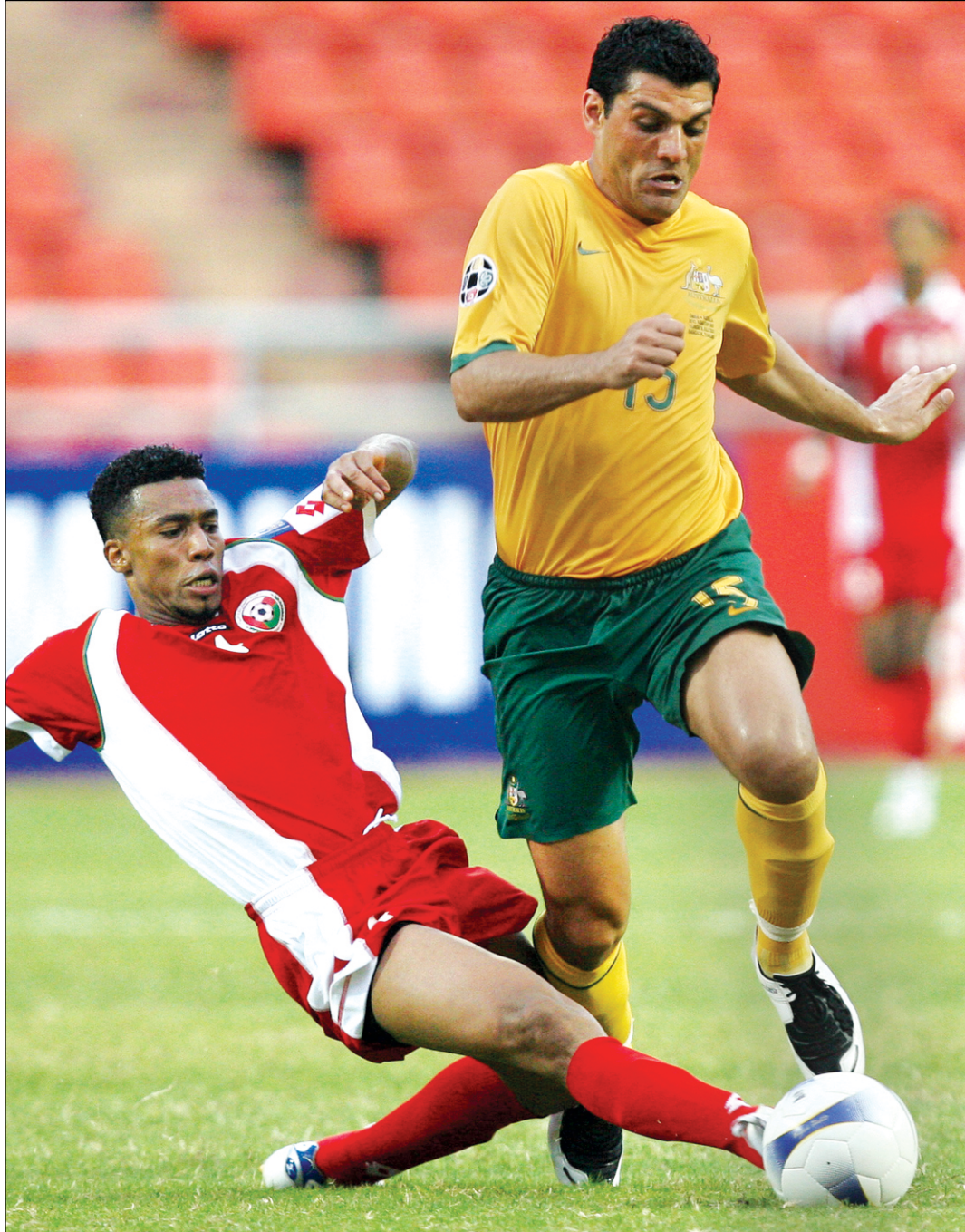
The Spanish champions have already been accused of illegal 'tapping-up' after going public with their desire to buy Fabregas, Chelsea's Arjen Robben and Milan star Kaka.

Regulations stipulate that clubs cannot approach contracted players - either in person or through the media - without first making contact with their club.

Milan have said that Kaka was not for sale under any circumstances, although Calderon has said he hoped the player would push for a move away from the Serie A side.

Robben remains a Chelsea player, but Real have said they hope to sign the Dutchman for next season.

"But I'm still confident everything



Australia forward John Aloisi (R) rides the challenge of Oman defender Said Sulaiwim during their Asian Cup group match in Bangkok on Sunday.

Cahill saves Socceroos

AFP, Bangkok



The tournament favourites needed an injury-time strike from the Everton star to salvage a 1-1 draw in driving rain to stay alive in their first continental campaign.

Cahill conjured memories of his late intervention to help Australia beat Japan at last year's World Cup with his volley from close range to bring relief to the Australian camp after a frustrating 90 minutes.

Coach Graham Arnold admitted his star-studded side were lucky.

"I'm relieved and distressed. We just got out of jail," he said.

"It shows how difficult Asia is. It shows that we need to push ourselves to the limit."

He said his team were exhausted by the heat and humidity, but praised them for never giving up.

"Some players lost four or five kilos out there, but they gave it everything. The players are dead," he said.

"But I'm still confident everything

I've done it at last," Love said. "I didn't feel under pressure to score, although I felt relieved after doing it."

"After his goal today, Vagner Love is going to be much more relaxed," Robinho said. "He deserves it. He played very well during the group stages, he did a lot for the team. Now he has a personal reward."

Dunga's side now face Uruguay in Maracaibo on Tuesday for a place in the Copa America final.

Uruguay crushed Venezuela's Copa America dream as they marched into the semifinals with a 4-1 demolition of the hosts on Saturday.

Diego Forlan grabbed a brace, while Pablo Garcia and Cristian Rodriguez were also on target in the last eight encounter as Oscar Tabarez's men gatecrashed the party of 40,000 people packed into San Cristobal's Pueblo Nuevo stadium.

"We played really well," Forlan said. "Yes, I scored twice, but the whole team were the stars. We're happy because we finally showed what we are capable of."

The result came as even more of a surprise given the fact the two sides had played out a goalless draw just four days earlier and Uruguay had scored only one goal in finishing third in Group A.

"We were very threatening at the start but could not score goals," Tabarez said. "We spoke during the interval about how a better final ball would resolve this. I believe that, as the result shows, we won well. We beat none other than the hosts, and that's no mean feat."

The 'Celestes' dominated much of the first half and created several chances. Pablo Garcia was first to test goalkeeper Ronnie Vega with a long-range effort before Maximiliano Pereiradrew a good save from the Venezuelan stopper.

The hosts then threatened through Ricardo Paez, but the midfielder's attempt went straight into the hands of Fabian Carini before striker Juan Arangosent a header narrowly wide.

However, Forlan opened the scoring after 37 minutes, when he was picked out by Diego Garcia in the box and beat Vega with a powerful strike.

But Venezuela hit back almost immediately as, three minutes later, Mallorca star Arango found the back of the net with a superb free kick to send the sides in level at the break.

Carini was then forced to produce a good stop to deny Arango just 30 seconds after halftime as Venezuela started on the front foot

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Ferrari's Finnish driver Kimi Raikkonen races through the Silverstone racetrack during the British Grand Prix yesterday. Raikkonen won the race ahead of McLaren duo Fernando Alonso and Lewis Hamilton.