

### Ronaldo starts full training

Former AC Milan and Real Madrid star Ronaldo, one of Brazil's most decorated footballers, was Tuesday back in full training seven months on from a knee injury which led him to leave Italy.

Ronaldo is currently without a club but has in recent days been working on his fitness with Brazilian side Flamengo - though last week the 32-year-old three-time World Footballer of the Year - he celebrated his birthday on Monday - said he would fancy a stint with French side Paris St Germain.

Tuesday saw the "Phenomenon" participate in training with the Flamengo youth team having Friday indulged in some light training sessions.

"All this time I've been doing physiotherapy and getting back to training with the ball is very important, another stimulus. It's marvelous," Ronaldo told reporters.

"We know we couldn't touch him as Ronaldo is just coming back and nobody wants to prejudice the return of an idol," youth team midfielder Leo said.

Ronaldo, who has suffered a chapter of knee problems in his career but returned to lift the World Cup in 2002, seriously injured his left knee playing for Milan against Livorno last season.

Media reports have linked him with English Premiership moneybags Manchester City, where compatriot Robinho is playing, but the club have denied any approach.

In May, Ronaldo, the all-time top World Cup scorer, said he was "incredibly ashamed" over a much-publicised encounter with a trio of transvestites who allegedly tried to bribe him out of 30,000 dollars for keeping mum about the incident.

### Guti to miss Zenit match

Real Madrid midfielder Guti will miss next week's Champions League match at Zenit St Petersburg after suffering a leg injury at the weekend.

Guti, whose full name is Jose Maria Gutierrez, will be out for two weeks following the injury in the last minutes of the league match at Santander, which Real won 2-0, the club said Monday.

Real face a tough match against the UEFA Cup holders in Russia on September 20 in Group H of the Champions League.

### Hull sign Stelios

Stelios Giannakopoulos joined Premier League new boys Hull City on a permanent contract Monday.

The 34-year-old Greek midfielder left top-flight rivals Bolton Wanderers during the close season.

He had been training with Hull as a free agent but has now signed a deal that will keep him at the KC Stadium until the end of the season.

Greek international Giannakopoulos spent five seasons with Bolton before Wanderers manager Gary Megson decided the north-west club could do without him.



Zakumi, the official mascot of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, appears for the first time at a launch ceremony in Johannesburg on Monday.

## WC mascot unveiled

AFP, Johannesburg

The official mascot of the 2010 World Cup was unveiled on Monday in Johannesburg - a green-haired leopard named Zakumi - FIFA announced at a television gala broadcast nationwide.

Zakumi - the ZA stands for South Africa while kumi means ten in assorted African languages - has been exclusively designed in the host country which will stage the continent's first ever World Cup in 21 month's time.

FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke explained the choice.

"Zakumi represents the people, geography and spirit of South Africa, personifying in essence the 2010 FIFA World Cup. We are certain we will have a lot of fun with him in the lead-up to and during the FIFA Confederations Cup and the FIFA World Cup," said Valcke.

Andries Odendaal from Cape Town came up with the design - the animal's green hair is designed to provide 'camouflage' on a football pitch.

For FIFA, Zakumi will help to "turn the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa into one huge, joyful and unforgettable party and show the thousands of international guests the warmth and spirit of the African continent."

wants to create a good mood for the fans and raise the excitement for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the first on African soil.

"He is a proud South African and wants to ensure that the world will come together in South Africa."

FIFA first introduced mascots in 1966 with World Cup Willie - a Union Jack-clad English Lion.

Others included the orange-shaped Naranjito in Spain in 1982, the 'ciao' stick-figure in Italian colours in 1990 and Footix, a French cockerel, in 1998.

But the Goleo lion for the 2006 event in Germany was not a commercial success and the company that made it declared itself bankrupt amid lower than expected demand for the product.

### Star duo sidelined

AFP, London

Chelsea's Portugal international pair of Ricardo Carvalho and Deco are both set to miss matches for the London club through injury it was announced Monday.

Defender Carvalho is set to be out for up to a month after a knee injury forced him off 11 minutes into the club's 1-1 Premier League at home to reigning champions Manchester United at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

Playmaker Deco was injured during the warm-up to that match with what the Blues said Monday was an upper thigh muscle tear and will be out "for approximately two weeks," according to a club statement.

The statement added: "A scan has shown that Carvalho strained a medial collateral ligament in his knee. It is expected to be three-to-four weeks until the central defender is back in action."

The first game that the pair will both now miss is Wednesday's League Cup third round tie away to Premier League rivals Portsmouth.

Deco's absence is likely to be compensated for by the arrival in the near future of Brazil midfielder Mineiro, with the 33-year-old backing-up John Obi Mikel in a squad where Michael Essien is already out for six months.

Although Alex impressed after coming off the bench, Carvalho has long been regarded as a key member of Chelsea's defence.

"He is a player that is very fast and he smells when the ball is coming," Chelsea manager Luiz Felipe Scolari said of Carvalho last week. "He can read where the ball is going to be and go."

However, the former Porto defender could be back in Chelsea colours after the next international break, with the first game of his return possibly either the Champions League clash with Roma or the Premier League encounter against fellow title-contenders Liverpool.

### No replay for Watford

AFP, London

Officials at the Football League announced Monday there would be no replay of the English second-tier Championship match between Watford and Reading which featured a controversial goal that never was.

Reading took the lead in farcical circumstances during Saturday's fixture at Vicarage Road when Stephen Hunt whipped in a 13th minute corner.

The ball bounced over the touchline, four yards wide of the near post, before being hooked back into play by Noel Hunt.

Andre Bikey headed back toward goal but linesman Nigel Bannister had already flagged for an own goal by Eustace.

Despite no Reading player appealing for the 'goal', referee Stuart Attwell, at 25 the youngest whistle-blower on the Premier League list, let it stand.

Watford eventually fought back to gain a 2-2 draw and, earlier on Monday, Reading manager Steve Coppell said he had no objection to a replay if one was ordered by the authorities.

However, Andy Williamson, the League's chief operating officer, said the referee's decision was final.

"The Laws of the Game give no discretion in these matters - the referee's decision regarding whether a goal is scored or not is final and binding."

"Given this explicit position, the League cannot intervene".

Former Manchester United and England winger Coppell had told Reading's official website: "If the authorities decide a replay is the correct thing to do then I've got no objections whatsoever."

A statement issued by Professional Game Match Officials, which oversees the work of England's referees and linesmen, said: "PGMO have analysed the incident at Watford where the referee, after consultation with his assistant, awarded a goal to Reading."

"It is clear that the ball did not cross the goal-line between the goalposts."

The statement added: "We regret this error of judgment and will now work with the officials concerned to determine how this occurred in an attempt to minimise such mistakes in the future."

Former leading English referee Graham Poll, whose career is best remembered for his mistake in issuing three yellow cards to Croatia's Josep Simunic during a 2006 World Cup match against Austria, when he should have sent him off after two, told BBC Radio Five Live: "This is the most bizarre situation I've ever seen in 40 years watching football and 27 years refereeing."

"It's completely inexplicable."

## Borriello the main man

AFP, Rome

With all the high profile signings AC Milan made in the summer in a bid to win a first Serie A title since 2004, Marco Borriello's return to the club from Genoa created barely a ripple.

And yet he is quickly becoming Milan's most important signing.

Christian Abbiati has claimed the number one jersey and Gianluca Zambrotta has fitted snugly into the right-back slot but neither have proved to be match-winners.

So far the biggest names have had to spend their fair share of time on the bench.

Ronaldinho is no automatic first choice, Andrei Shevchenko is yet to score, Mathieu Flamini is one of several quality midfielders but not indispensable like Andrea Pirlo and Philippe Senderos is considered centre-half back-up.

And yet Borriello, who most considered would be nothing more than a replacement forward, is turning into the main man up front.

Milan travel to little Reggina on Wednesday as they bid to continue the good work they achieved in beating Lazio 4-1 at the San Siro on Sunday.

After losing their first two games Milan needed a boost and following that win club vice-president Adriano Galliani singled out Borriello for special praise.

"The thing that pleased me the most during the game was Borriello's closing down of (Cristian) Ledesma," he said.

Even club president Silvio Berlusconi joined in the back-

patting: "He played in a really positive way, like a centre-forward of old. Marco played with and for the team."

It all means that the former darling of the 'tifosi rossonero' Shevchenko is likely to find himself warming a seat next coach Carlo Ancelotti again on Wednesday -- a role he got more than used to at Chelsea due to the prominence of



MARCO BORRIELLO

Didier Drogba.

Shevchenko is still searching for his first goal since returning to the club after two years in London, but he's confident he'll soon break his duck.

"I'm growing, for me it's important to work hard and the goals will take care of themselves," he said.

But while things are starting to

look up for Milan, who started badly, the opposite is the case for second-placed Juventus.

They have begun well with seven points from three games, but have been far from convincing in victories against Udinese and Cagliari and have now lost French forward David Trezeguet for at least three months and Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon for the next two matches.

The visit of Catania is not the most taxing but Juve will be relying on Brazilian new boy Amauri for goals.

Amauri scored the winner against both Udinese and Cagliari and has settled in quickly.

"I'm very happy and I hope to keep going like this," he said after the Cagliari game. Juve will be banking on him doing so.

But while Juve are scraping victories, champions Inter Milan are storming past their opponents under new boss Jose Mourinho.

Their next opponents Lecce have already admitted it will be damage limitation for them in the San Siro on Wednesday night.

If they have one chance it will be against potentially complacent opponents who have been wallowing in their own glory.

"When I brought him in I thought I was bringing in the best. He's showing that and I'm delighted," said Inter owner Massimo Moratti after Sunday's 3-1 win at Torino.

The other title rivals AS Roma and Fiorentina face tricky ties with the former visiting Genoa and the latter facing a trip to Lazio.

Both won for the first time this season on Sunday, Roma thrashing a dreadful Reggina 3-0 and La Viola winning 1-0 against Bologna courtesy of a goal from the prolific Alberto Gilardino.

### FIXTURES

Atalanta v Cagliari, Bologna v Udinese, Chievo v Torino, Genoa v AS Roma, Inter Milan v Lecce, Juventus v Catania, Lazio v Fiorentina, Napoli v Palermo, Reggina v AC Milan, Siena v Sampdoria

## Kahn defends Rensing

AFP, Berlin

Former Germany captain Oliver Kahn on Tuesday defended Bayern Munich's under-fire goalkeeper Michael Rensing who made several errors in their shock 5-2 home defeat against Werder Bremen last weekend.

"I have always said: if you build your team with youth in mind, you have to accept their may be difficulties along the way and a bumpy road," Kahn told German tabloid Bild.

"It could have very damaging consequences if Michael is called into question now."

Defending champions Bayern were ripped apart by Bremen last weekend with Swedish striker Markus Rosenberg scoring twice, but Kahn, who retired as Bayern goalkeeper in May, says Rensing

needs time to settle into the role.

Rensing was at times brutally exposed against Bremen and has been criticised in the press here.

But Kahn, 39, says he himself did not always have it easy in Munich and dismissed calls in various newspapers here to return to Bayern's goal and replace his former understudy.

He said: "My first season (1994/95) at Bayern was a disaster up until I tore my cruciate knee ligament."

"Everything I touched there did not turn to gold, quite the opposite for me."

"And at that time, people called for my predecessor Raimond Aumann to return."

Kahn advised Rensing to "not think about the (Bremen) game too much" and said the 24-year-old will "work hard in training and get rid of all the annoyance and anger after the defeat"

## Tevez costs Hammers £30m

INTERNET, undated

Sheffield United have won their compensation claim against West Ham after an independent tribunal ruled in the South Yorkshire club's favour regarding the Carlos Tevez affair.

Blades chairman Kevin McCabe revealed that the FA-appointed tribunal found the Hammers guilty of breaching league regulations when they signed Tevez and Argentine compatriot Javier Mascherano, now at Liverpool, at the beginning of the 2006-07 season.

"I can confirm that both clubs have been notified of the ruling," he told the club's official website.

"The arbitration panel has awarded in our favour. The matter is still legally in process so I do not wish to comment any further until we have completed that process."

In response to press reports that West Ham face a £30m pay-out to Sheffield United, McCabe said it would be "inappropriate" to discuss the figure at present.

A West Ham spokesperson told the BBC: "We need to digest the full findings of the arbitration panel and will consult our lawyers on the next steps we might take before making any further comment."

The Football Association confirmed that there was no further right of appeal against the latest ruling.

"The dispute has been heard by a private independent arbitration tribunal set up under the FA's rules," the governing body stated.

"The arbitration tribunal is comprised of one member nominated by each club, plus an independent member agreed upon by the two parties."

"All aspects of the arbitration, including publicity, are then a matter for the arbitration tribunal and the two parties concerned."

any influence on the decision and did not appoint any of the tribunal members.

The three-man panel consisted of former MCC president Lord Griffiths, former High Court judge Sir Anthony Colman and Robert Englehart QC.

West Ham avoided relegation on the final day of the 2006-07 season at the expense of the Bramall Lane outfit, with Tevez scoring the only goal of the game against Manchester United at Old Trafford - his sixth in the final 10 matches.

He subsequently moved to the Red Devils and helped them

become Premier League and European champions in 2007-2008.

The original three-man Premier League arbitration panel, which agreed that West Ham had contravened rules on third-party ownership of players, fined the East London club £5.5m instead of imposing a points penalty which would have seen Sheffield United stay up.

The Championship club have since pursued monetary compensation for the losses incurred by relegation, estimated by them at £50m, which include gate receipts, matchday income from hospitality and restaurants and broadcasting monies.

## Long goodbye to 1st US Stadium

INTERNET, undated

From The Babe, who built it, to The Boss, who rebuilt it, Yankee Stadium was the greatest ballparks.

Opened in 1918, the stadium closed its hallowed doors on Sunday night after the Yankees beat the Orioles, 7-3, one week before their nightmare season ends.

There is a closing ceremony slated early in November, but for Yankees fans, last night was last call.

Before the game the Yankees trotted out all the big names. They saved Bernie Williams, a staple of the Joe Torre Era that produced four World Series champions, for the final introduction. Williams, who left the Yankees after the 2006 season, received the loudest and longest ovation in a field that included Hall of Famers and Yankees icons Whitey Ford, Yogi Berra, Reggie Jackson and Goose Gosage and many other stars.

Mickey Mantle, Phil Rizzuto, Thurman Munson, Bobby Murcer, Billy Martin, Catfish Hunter and Ruth were represented by family members.

There was no mention of Torre, Mariano Rivera or Roger Clemens. Don Mattingly was shown on the video board for about five seconds.

The Joe DiMaggio and Lou Gehrig were represented by actors playing the part of deceased Yankees greats.

Julia Ruth Stevens, Ruth's 92-year-old daughter, threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

"I'm very sad that the Yankee



A full house New York crowd witnesses the final Major League Baseball game at the Yankee Stadium between the home team and the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday night. The 85-year-old home turf of the New York Yankees will make way for a new ball-park across the road in the Bronx borough.

Stadium is not going to be in existence any longer. I wish it could have remained as a New York landmark, but I guess like all things it has come to its final days as we all do and it has to go," she said.

Following the game Derek Jeter gathered his mates on the mound and addressed the fans.

"We are the New York Yankees and that means pride and tradition, but most of all we have the greatest fans in the world," said Jeter, who led the players on a lap around the Stadium to salute the crowd of 54,610, none of whom left before hearing from the Yankees

captain.

Before the game, when the gates opened at 1 pm, an ocean of fans poured in. They were permitted to walk on the warning track dirt and it looked like a wake.

Mike and Jen Purpl came from Oyster Bay.

"It's a once in a lifetime experience," Mike said. "I will never set foot on this field again."

Near home plate Jennifer Hickey, who said her grandfather, John Hickey, was a friend of Lou Gehrig's, walked slowly.

native said.

At 4:05 p.m., the man who likely has been booed and heckled more than any Yankee in the history of the Stadium emerged. Suddenly, Alex Rodriguez was 'a bum. As he walked the rope along the third base line, Rodriguez was Ruth, DiMaggio, Derek Jeter, Rivera, Jackson, Berra, Ford, Mantle and Gehrig rolled into one.

"Can't explain it," Rodriguez said of the reaction to his 10-minute tour that ended in front of Monument Park with fans jostling each other to get closer to him.

Before batting practice, Jeter spoke emotionally about what last night was. A night when old faces belonging to Ron Guidry, Graig Nettles, Williams, David Wells, Scott Brosius, Dave Winfield, David Cone, Paul O'Neill and Willie Randolph surfaced.

"(Saturday) night Reggie (Jackson) came over," Jeter said. "I could really relate to what he was saying. He was saying he doesn't feel sad. He just feels proud to be a part of the history here."

Jeter has been a big part of the history inside the Stadium. Future generations will claim him as theirs like other generations claim Ruth and Gehrig, DiMaggio, Berra and Ford, and Mantle.

And he will be the bridge from the old to the new.

"It will be different over there," Jeter said of new stadium. "But the bottom line is we are still the New York Yankees."

PHOTO: AFP

AFP, Madrid



A fierce Madrid derby is the highlight of the midweek fixtures in the Spanish first division as the league's top scorers Atletico Madrid travel to unbeaten neighbours Getafe on Wednesday.

Atletico lie fifth after a 4-1 hammering of Recreativo Huelva at the weekend and Getafe midfielder Manu del Moral admits his team are wary of the threat posed by in-form Argentine Sergio "Kun" Aguero.

"Even though he is so young Aguero is living up to the high expectations at Atletico and we will have our work cut out to stop him and Atletico," said Moral.

The third capital club, Real Madrid are bidding for a third successive league win when they host struggling Sporting Gijon on Wednesday at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Real lost their opening match to Deportivo La Coruna but have responded with back to back wins to lie a point behind the quarter of

### FIXTURES

Wednesday (all 1800 GMT unless stated)  
Barcelona v Real Betis, Villarreal v Racing Santander, Osasuna v Deportivo La Coruna, Getafe v Atletico de Madrid (1900 GMT) Real Madrid v Sporting Gijon (2000 GMT), Sevilla v Espanyol (2000 GMT)  
Thursday (all 1800 GMT)  
Malaga v Valencia, Valladolid v Almeria, Recreativo Huelva v Athletic Bilbao, Real Mallorca v Numancia