

Fergie backs 6+5 plan

Football

AFP, Yokohama

Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson has backed FIFA's plan to limit the number of foreign players at clubs, saying it is crucial to help develop local talent.

"That way clubs' youth systems are protected. Progress is progress and the future has to protect the national game." The United manager, in Japan for the Club World Cup, said fans in England could identify more with a side that had local players.

Neville and Paul Scholes for 19 years, and that demonstrates the part loyalty plays in the game. "People look at the stats of those three players and will be amazed, but why? These players have supported the club with their loyalty but it's a two-way thing and we are proud of that."

Eduardo eyes Croatia return

AFP, Zagreb

Arsenal's Brazil-born forward Eduardo Da Silva said he is itching to return to international football, with his adopted country of Croatia, in a friendly against Romania in February 2009.



Manchester United star Cristiano Ronaldo (R) heads in the second goal against Japan's Gamba Osaka during their Club World Cup semifinal in Yokohama on Thursday.

COPPA ITALIA

Vucinic fires Roma

Football

AFP, Rome

Montenegro striker Mirko Vucinic scored a late brace as holders AS Roma qualified for the Italian Cup quarterfinals with a 2-0 victory at home to Bologna.

with his left foot. Only three minutes later Bologna's hopes were dashed once and for all as Vucinic robbed Marcello Castellini on the halfway line and ran unopposed to the box before slipping home his second.

CLUB WORLD CUP MU overwhelm Gamba

Football

AFP, Yokohama

Manchester United overpowered Japan's Gamba Osaka 5-3 to book their place in the Club World Cup final on Thursday, with six goals in a breathless 17 minutes.

elude the club in its distinguished history. For Gamba, it was one of the biggest games in their history and they could easily have been overawed, but the J-League side started confidently with Tomokazu Myojin having the first chance of the night.

Depo thru' to next round

AFP, Paris



Deportivo La Coruna qualified by the back door from the UEFA Cup group stages as the 2004 Champions League semifinalists struck a late winner through Rodolfo Bodipo for a 1-0 victory at home to Nancy.

during the meaningless tie at the San Siro which was practically empty with few fans other than the 1,600 travelling German supporters.

handler Martin Jol - meaning they only qualified in third spot from Group F. "We take this result) very hard - no-one likes to lose," Reo-Coker told Channel Five television. "It's not the mentality we've got at this club. "We're very disappointed,

we're here to win games, regardless of which team is out there. We've set standards and expect to maintain them. We let ourselves down by conceding very poor goals." Manager Martin O'Neill did not field his strongest line-up contributing to the defeat with two goals from Ivica Olic and another from Mladen Petric, though Nathan Delfouneso pulled one back late on.

STANDINGS table showing UEFA Cup group stages results for Groups E to H, including teams like VfL Wolfsburg, AC Milan, and Feyenoord.

UEFA CUP RESULTS

AFP, Paris

- Collated results in the UEFA Cup final round of group matches on Wednesday: Group E: AC Milan (ITA) 2, Ambrosini 17, Pato 56; VfL Wolfsburg (GER) 2 (Zaccardo 56, Saglik 81); Portsmouth (ENG) 3 (Crouch 40, 42, Hreidarsson 90); Heerenveen (NED) 0.

Real recall Parejo

AFP, London

Injury-hit Spanish giants Real Madrid on Wednesday recalled Spanish Under-21 midfielder Daniel Parejo from his loan spell at English Championship side Queens Park Rangers.

Not Bayern, says Salgado

SOCCERNET



Germany's Bayern Munich have been singled out by Real Madrid defender Michel Salgado as the side he most hopes to avoid in Friday's draw for the last 16 of the Champions League.

UCL remains lucrative

AFP, London

The winners of this season's Champions League can expect to make 110.35 million euros according to a new study. Research commissioned by MasterCard, the official sponsor of European club football's leading tournament, said getting to the knockout stages alone would earn teams an average of 38.45 million euros each despite worldwide financial problems caused by the global credit crunch.



Hamburg striker Ivica Olic (R) scores his second goal against Aston Villa during their UEFA Cup encounter in Hamburg on Wednesday. Hamburg won 3-0.