

Spain stroll to a win

Football

AFP, Seville

Spain handed England a sharp reminder of the limits of the progress they have made under Fabio Capello by strolling to a 2-0 friendly victory here on Wednesday.

Goals from David Villa and second-half substitute Fernando Llorente delivered the victory and the margin was a fair reflection of their comfortable superiority.

Fabio Capello's men were never completely over-run but it was hard to resist the feeling that the Euro 2008 champions had another gear in reserve that they were never required to find.

Capello's judgement was succinct.

"I think we can do better," he said, adding it was an important match to get to know his players' abilities better, presumably with an eye on their next World Cup qualifier at home to Ukraine on April 1.

"I think it was a poor game overall," he told ITV.

The confidence engendered by a 28-match unbeaten run that had featured 26 victories was apparent as Spain began pinning their passes around from the kick-off.

It was England, however, who conjured up the first moments of real menace in what was to prove their most encouraging phase of the match.

Released by Ashley Cole's fine pass, Gareth Barry found Gabriel Agbonlahor with a cross that the Aston Villa star volleyed fractionally wide of Iker Casillas's right-hand post on five minutes, and John Terry went almost as close with an unchallenged header from Stewart Downing's corner soon afterwards.

Spain's first shot on goal, from Fernando Torres, looped over the bar via Glen Johnson's shin and David James was equally untroubled by a tame long-range effort from Marcos Senna.

England endured a real scare midway through the half, however, when Villa latched on to Andres Iniesta's threaded pass and side-footed past James, only for his effort to be chalked off because of a debatable offside flag.

Shaun Wright-Phillips' trickery earned England a freekick on the edge of the area but Downing's strike failed to clear the wall and the visitors found themselves behind shortly afterwards.

Having turned Everton centreback Phil Jagielka inside

out just inside the 18-yard line, Villa was once again left with only James to beat and this time there was no linesman's flag to curtail the celebrations in the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan stadium.

Buoyed by the goal, Spain gradually began to assert their superiority and James breathed a sigh of relief as Xavi Alonso's drive whistled past his post before being tested by a ferocious half-volley from Sergio Ramos.

Beckham's entry to the fray came at the interval with Downing making way and Wright-Phillips switching to the left flank to allow the 33-year-old to slot into his familiar berth on the right of midfield.

England did muster a few threatening moves after the interval with Wright-Phillips cutting in from the left to test Jose Reina before Frank Lampard nodded Agbonlahor's cross into the Liverpool goalkeeper's arms.

Spain quickly ended any doubt about the outcome, Llorente nodding in a Xavi freekick although England came desperately close to pulling a late goal back when Beckham released Cole, who rounded Reina but saw his attempted finish blocked on the line.



Spain striker David Villa (C) scores the opening goal against England during their international friendly clash at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan in Sevilla on Wednesday.

Maradona praises Messi

AFP, Marseille

Diego Maradona proudly eulogised Lionel Messi, the man he says is the best player in the world, after the young Barcelona star scored the killer second goal in Wednesday's 2-0 win over France in Marseille.

"Messi played fantastically. The ball is a part of his body - it is impossible to wrest it from him."

Messi's solo strike eight minutes from the end added to an opener from Jonas Gutierrez shortly before the break cemented Argentina's superiority once they settled into their rhythm.

Maradona praised Messi for also working hard off the ball.

"When he has to lend a hand to the team he does that too. He understood we were under the cosh in the opening 20 minutes when the lines were a fair way apart and he had to work hard along with (strike partner Sergio) Aguero. "Overall, I am very pleased and proud," said the 1986 world champion, who has now won his first two games in charge following November's friendly in Scotland.

"The team understood it was important to get a hold of the ball and hang on to it."

Giggs signs new 1-year deal

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United midfielder Ryan Giggs signed a new one-year contract extension with the Premier League and European champions on Thursday.

Giggs has been rewarded for another impressive season with Sir Alex Ferguson's team and is now contracted to the Old Trafford club until June 2010.

The 35-year-old's superb winner at West Ham last weekend earned glowing praise from Ferguson and the Welsh star, who made his debut for United nearly 18 years ago, insists he is fit enough to continue making a significant contribution.

"I feel fit and I'm enjoying my football more than ever," he told United's website. "This is an exciting young team and the spirit is great in the dressing room."

"I want to be a part of that and achieve even more success."

Giggs is United's record appearance holder after surpassing Bobby Charlton's previous high of 758 games in last season's Champions League final win over Chelsea.

That success was Giggs' second Champions League final triumph following United's 1999 win against Bayern Munich.

Giggs has also won the Premier League title 10 times, as well as four FA Cups, two League Cups and the FIFA Club World Cup.

England hail Beckham

Football

AFP, London

David Beckham may not be Bobby Moore, but in equalling his outfield record of 108 caps for England the 33-year-old proved what an extraordinary footballer he is, newspapers here said on Thursday.

Beckham made history when he came on for the second half in England's 2-0 friendly defeat European champions Spain in Seville on Wednesday night, inviting comparisons with the World Cup-winning skipper.

But many newspapers noted that given the different time, teams and players, the pair could never be held up against each other -- and nor should they.

Beckham reaching 108 "was a tribute to a man who has always refused to sacrifice his England career for the increasingly rapacious demands of the clubs," wrote one commentator in The Daily Mirror.

"It was a victory for hard work and professionalism, for dedication and commitment, an inspiring lesson that however many times you are written off, there is always a way back if you fight hard enough," he wrote.

The Sun also praised Beckham's achievement, saying that while some saw him as "an over-hyped creation of a rabid celebrity era", there was no doubting his commitment to England.

There "could be no higher accolade" than to be linked with Moore, it added, describing Beckham as "one of the most extraordinary figures of modern times".

"Beckham's arrival on 108 does not challenge what Moore achieved," said the Daily Telegraph, adding: "Both were and are men of their time, footballers whose appeal stretched beyond the field of play."

As for England's performance Wednesday, most papers agreed that while the team was on the right path, it proved just how far they had to go if they want to mix it with the best at the World Cup finals in South Africa next year.

Kranjcar wants out

AFP, Portsmouth

Croatia midfielder Niko Kranjcar has added to Portsmouth's misery by admitting he is keen to leave the struggling Premier League club at the end of the season.

Portsmouth have already lost star players Jermain Defoe and Lassana Diarra during the January transfer window and are managerless after Tony Adams was sacked earlier this week.

With the team just above the relegation zone, the last thing Pompey need is another player considering his future, but Kranjcar, who has been linked with Arsenal and Monaco, insists he would walk away from Fratton Park if a bigger club came in for him.

"It was always my intention to move to a bigger club, it is always like that in your career," Kranjcar told the Daily Mirror.

"If an offer came from a larger club, of course I would want to go."

In the meantime, Kranjcar has no intention of giving up on Portsmouth's battle to beat the drop and he called on his teammates to show some fight.

"There are lots of teams in a similar situation," he said. "We know we must fight to stay up and we are ready."

Barcelona best supported club in Europe

AFP, Cologne

Spanish giants Barcelona are officially the best supported team in Europe, according to a survey carried out by German marketing company Sport Markt, it was revealed on Wednesday.

The current Spanish league leaders are estimated to have 44.2 million supporters across 16 European countries and beat their rivals Real Madrid, who have 41 million fans and are ranked second in the survey.

Third are England's Champions League winners Manchester United with 37.6m and Russian champions Zenit St Petersburg are the surprise club in fifth with 23.9m.

And on their debut season in the Bundesliga, league leaders Hoffenheim have clearly caught the imagination of European football fans with a staggering 1,352 per cent increase of their fan base compared to last season to take 39th place.



Germany defenders Andreas Beck (L) and Serdar Tasci (C) look on as goalkeeper Rene Adler fails to save a goal by Norway's Christian Grindheim (unseen) during their international friendly encounter in Duesseldorf on Wednesday.

Norway stun Germany

Football

AFP, Duesseldorf

Euro 2008 finalists Germany were beaten by minnows Norway for the first time since 1936 as midfielder Christian Grindheim scored to inflict a 1-0 defeat on the hosts in Wednesday's friendly.

The 25-year-old Grindheim's second-half goal was greeted with stunned silence by the home crowd, but did little to illuminate a dull game at Duesseldorf's LITU-Arena on a bitterly cold evening.

"We didn't really have enough movement out there," glum-faced Germany captain Michael Ballack admitted with World Cup qualifiers coming up against Liechtenstein and Wales later this spring.

"We have to play at a higher tempo against an opponent like Norway and create more chances. We were just too sedate in our playing structure, the ball wasn't moved forward fast enough."

"This is a warning for our next few games, we could not crack the Norwegian defence."

Germany are ranked second in the world, under FIFA's listings, with Norway 54 places below in 56th and while the Germans are top of their World

Cup qualifying group, Norway are bottom, but none of those facts were obvious on the field.

At least the 45,000-strong crowd had the small comfort the roof was closed so the freezing cold outside did not add to their increasing restlessness as the boos and whistles grew louder as the game wore on.

This was only Germany's second defeat to Norway in the 21 meetings between the two sides - with the last defeat coming when Adolf Hitler was in power.

Not since the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin have Germany lost to Norway and Joachim Loew had the luxury of naming virtually a full-strength side with Ballack alongside the experienced Torsten Frings.

The pair had been missing from Germany's last game in October when England earned a 2-1 win at Berlin's Olympic Stadium, but die Mannschaft produced a similar lacklustre performance with little imagination in attack.

As Norway were missing seven of their first-choice players, coach Egil Olsen had been forced into playing Thorstein Helstad from French club Le Mans as his lone striker, but the guests' defensive tactics paid dividends.

The best chance of the first-half fell to Norway when Schalke 04 defender Heiko Westermann was lucky not to concede a penalty when he took a heavy-handed approach with Toulouse striker Daniel Braaten in the penalty area.

The referee missed the foul and Germany were allowed to breathe easily after 20 minutes.

Following the break, Loew introduced a host of changes and brought on some fresh blood in Leverkusen's Patrick Helmes, Stuttgart's Serdar Tasci and Hoffenheim's Andreas Beck - a forward, midfielder and defender respectively.

The substitutions only seemed to further disrupt the German's flow and just after the hour mark Norway grabbed the winner with a fittingly scrappy goal.

Blackburn Rovers midfielder Morten Gamst Pedersen got to the back of the penalty area and threaded his cross along the goal-line for Grindheim to stab the ball home on 63 minutes.

Germany briefly raised their game to force an equaliser, but Loew will have been glad this was a mere friendly and not a World Cup qualifier.

Press slam Mannschaft

Football

AFP, Berlin

The German press pelted no punches on Thursday as it ripped into die Mannschaft following their 1-0 friendly defeat at home to Norway with Bild claiming the Germans were "ridiculed by the viking tourists".

Seething at "the absence of movement" which led to the "embarrassing" defeat, the German tabloid went as far as to award a six - the lowest mark possible - to all, but one member of the Germany squad.

Only Bayern Munich defender Philipp Lahm, who received a four, escaped a

dreaded six ("Did not earn their money") as the Euro 2008 finalists were beaten by a single second-half goal from Norway's Christian Grindheim.

"There was no evidence on the pitch that the Euro 2008 runners-up, playing with their best side, were up against a team who didn't win a single game in 2008," moaned Bild.

"In their World Cup qualifying group, Norway are even behind Macedonia!"

And Bild wasted no time in pointing out the last time Norway beat Germany was in 1936 - at the Berlin Olympic Games when Adolf Hitler was in power here.

To make matters worse,

Norway were struggling with injury and lacking match practice as their season does not begin until next month.

"The Norway team was a group of tourists and even their coach admitted some of the players he selected would not be recognised in downtown Oslo," added Bild.

Specialist football magazine Kicker lamented the lack of "ideas, energy and goals" from a Germany team who had already lost to England 2-1 at Berlin's Olympic Stadium in their last game.

"Loew has much work in front of him," said Kicker with Germany facing World Cup qualifiers against Liechtenstein on March 28 and Wales on April 1.

Carlo not leaving Milan

Football

AFP, Rome

AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti dismissed reports he will join Chelsea at the end of this season by telling newspaper La Stampa that he has no intention of leaving the Italian giants.

Dutch Russia coach Guus Hiddink has taken over the reins at Chelsea on a temporary basis until the end of the season following the ceremonial dismissal of former World Cup winning coach Luis Felipe Scolari.

But newspaper reports in England have suggested that Chelsea's billionaire owner Roman Abramovich wants to bring Ancelotti to the London club in the summer.

However, while the Milan coach admitted to having previously met with the Russian, he claimed he is happy where he is.

"Honestly the only club that has approached me is Chelsea," he told La Stampa when asked about the repeated interest in his services.

"In the summer I met with Abramovich but I didn't want to leave Milan. The same thing is happening now, I'm not thinking about leaving."

Ancelotti has won two Champions League titles, one Serie A crown and the Club World Cup since joining Milan as coach in 2001, having previously also coached Juventus.

However, he has at times had his position come under question, such as at the beginning of this season when Milan opened their campaign with two defeats to Bologna and Genoa.

He is under pressure to bring the Serie A crown back to Milan for the first time since 2004 and in so doing to end bitter city rivals Inter Milan's domination of domestic football over the last three seasons.

However, Milan are only third in the table and trail Inter by eight points ahead of the eagerly-anticipated Milan derby this weekend.

If Ancelotti does leave it may not be for Chelsea. La Gazzetta dello Sport,

the leading sports newspaper in Italy, claims he is more likely to join Real Madrid than Chelsea while Ancelotti him-

self, a former Milan and AS Roma midfielder, has long made it clear that he wants to coach the Romans one day.



Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring the only goal against Finland from a penalty during their international friendly tie at the Algarve Stadium in Faro on Wednesday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Police Headquarters
Dhaka

Corrigendum of International Tender Notice

Invitation for international tender notice published in different national dailies as per Memo No. E/T/17(2008-2009) dated 01/01/2009 is hereby amended as follows:-

Sl. No.	Description	Published	Revised
1.	Tender closing date and time	16-02-2009 at 12.00 pm	24-02-2009 at 12.00 pm
2.	Tender opening date and time	16-02-2009 at 12.30 pm	24-02-2009 at 12.30 pm
3.	Completion time	90 (ninety) days	90 (ninety) days

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