

Milan in for Adebayor

Football

SOCERNET

AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani has revealed he has talked to Arsenal about the possibility of signing Emmanuel Adebayor.

The Rossoneri's first choice remains Wolfsburg star Edin Dzeko but with the Bundesliga club remaining firm that he is not for sale, Milan are starting to look at alternatives.

Galliani indicated on Thursday that they might be interested in Adebayor and it now appears that the Serie A side have stepped up their interest in the Togo international.

"We don't have any agreement with Dzeko," said Galliani. "He is a Wolfsburg player. Dzeko has expressed his linking for a move here but at this

moment there are no negotiations yet.

"We wrote to Wolfsburg and they responded that he is not for sale. If Wolfsburg change their minds we have agreed they will call Milan. If they do I am ready to immediately leave and go there."

"There's no fee yet, at the moment Dzeko is not for sale. If he becomes for sale then we will start talking sums."

Adebayor and (Sevilla striker) Luis Fabiano are the alternatives. For Adebayor there has been a telephone call, during which (Arsenal manager Arsene) Wenger was friendly."

Speculation has been rife that midfield duo Andrea Pirlo and Gennaro Gattuso would be joining former coach Carlo Ancelotti at Chelsea.

However, Galliani reiterated that no offers have been made for Pirlo, while Gattuso has offered to take a pay cut to

extend his stay at the San Siro. Galliani said: "There have been no offers for Pirlo and Thursday night with Ancelotti was just a dinner between old friends, seeing as Carletto was in Milan for his daughter's graduation."

"Wednesday night I was at dinner with Gattuso who told us that he was ready to reduce his salary. He still has two years left on his contract, so it will move to three years, reducing the salary."

"Gattuso is an example, a true man, extraordinary."

Meanwhile, Davide di Gennaro returns from Genoa after Milan won a blind auction to buy out the other club's half of the players' rights.

The Rossoneri also confirmed that they have beaten off competition from several other Serie A clubs to the signature of 18-year-old Treviso striker Gianmarco Zigoni.

Barca confirm City offer for Eto'o

INTERNET, undated

Samuel Eto'o could be on his way to Manchester City after Barcelona president Joan Laporta revealed the Barclays Premier League club had made the striker a 'stratospheric offer'.

Speculation has been rife about where Eto'o will be next season as, with his contract set to expire next summer, Barca were keen to either tie him to a new deal or cash in on the Cameroonian striker.

Reports suggest the Catalan giants have accepted a 30 million euro bid from City and Laporta believes the temptation of a mega salary would prove too much for Eto'o.

Eto'o has a stratospheric offer from City, which would convert him into the best paid player in the world, iCat FM.

"It's starting to become clear that he has this monster offer. He wants to stay but an offer like this is very difficult to refuse.

If Eto'o accepts this stratospheric offer we will have to bring in someone."

Eto'o contributed 36 goals last season as Barca claimed an unprecedented Primera Division, Copa del Rey and Champions League treble.

Should the 28-year-old leave the Nou Camp, Barca would likely step up their efforts to land Spain and Valencia striker David Villa.

"Things can be great one moment and not so great the next moment. The organisation can collapse like a pack of playing cards. I felt the time was right for a change and Real Madrid is the club for me."

"It was not about a difference of quality between the Primera Liga and the Premier League. Real will always be a big club. Nobody can take away their history and their nine European Cups."

'City are just a project'

Football

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Kaka has warned Manchester City that their summer spending may not bring the success the club craves, after he turned down the club to join Real Madrid in a then-world record £56m move.

City's mega rich Arab owners are in the midst of a shopping spree that has already seen Gareth Barry and Roque Santa Cruz arrive at Eastlands and they are set to further add to their pre-season transfer haul by reportedly acquiring the services of Samuel Eto'o and Manchester United reject Carlos Tevez in

the next few days.

Kaka himself was a target for City last January before opting to stay at AC Milan and subsequently making his move to Spain.

Despite many observers already decreeing that City are fast becoming a force to be reckoned with, Kaka remains far from convinced that their approach is destined to succeed, a key factor behind his decision to say no to City boss Mark Hughes.

"I was very flattered by Manchester City's interest in January but it is just a project at the moment. And with projects sometimes you don't know how long the investment will be there for," he said.

"Lots of smaller clubs have periods of spending big money. But suddenly the investment stops when the owner decides to do something else. Or sometimes it stops because of other reasons like a failing economy."

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OPEN SECRETS

INTERNET, undated

Serena Williams could find herself a bit peckish in the Wimbledon locker room as she finally took note of the strict rules about not eating in that premises. If that is the case, the American complains on her website, why are bananas and energy bars on offer to competitors inside the locker room as well?

"I'm an athlete and my diet is very important during a tournament," said the tennis Grand Slam champion.

"Before a match, I eat in the locker room, it's a part of my routine." Williams said that when informed she could no longer nosh in the zone, "I was in shock."

"I'm a member of the All England Club. As I am looking around the locker room a bit upset I must admit, I notice someone placing bananas and

health bars into a basket for the other players and myself."

"Why have food in a room if we aren't allowed to eat in the locker room. This rule is unfair and new. There was no warning that this new rule would be implemented and I don't agree with it."

"I totally dislike rules that do NOT make sense."

The club said that Williams got the wrong end of the stick on a regulation which has been in place for nearly a decade since the opening of the new Millennium complex in 2000.

With Williams saying she hardly ever goes into the player restaurant, ignorance of the rule may be understandable.

Less of a racket
Marat Safin left Wimbledon this week for the last time as a player, with his career-long trail of smashed rackets not

many months from its natural conclusion.

The personable - yet mercurial - Russian who retires at the end of the season takes the prize for destruction of tools, with his racket company Head surely ready for some relief after a decade or more of shippings in replacements.

Safin reckons he's gone through nearly 150,000 dollars in broken rackets, crashed and smashed in the heat of the moment on court. "Breaking all those rackets, it was worth it."

"I'd guess I have smashed 700 in my career, maybe more. That's not so many. The rackets probably cost about 200 dollars each, so 700 rackets, not so much really."

The 140,000 guess-timate comes in addition for nearly 100,000 dollars in disciplinary fines for the two-time Grand Slam winner and former number one.

The 48-year-old former head coach of the Hungarian national team came to Hungary last Friday to discuss the terms of his employment at Fehervar after a prior agreement was reached on June 10.

Matthaus, who represented Bayern Munich and Inter Milan with distinction in his playing career as a sweeper and midfielder, was the captain of the West Germany team that won the 1990 World Cup.

As a coach, he took charge of the Hungarian national side but left the post after failing to secure qualification for the 2006 World Cup in his homeland.

He spent the 2008-09 season in charge of Israeli side Maccabi Netanya, with whom he parted company in April after a lacklustre campaign.

Located in Szekesfehervar, FC Fehervar finished sixth in last season's Hungarian first division championship.

Dzeko staying at Wolves

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AC Milan target Edin Dzeko has revealed he will be staying at Wolfsburg.

The Bosnian international was Milan's top transfer target this summer as they look to bolster their attacking options following the sale of Kaka to Real Madrid.

Dzeko has attracted the interest of a host of clubs after inspiring Wolfsburg to the Bundesliga title last season with 26 goals in 32 games.

Milan have not hidden their desire to sign Dzeko, but Wolfsburg have remained adamant the player would be staying at the club.

Dzeko held talks with Wolfsburg officials over the weekend and they have informed him he will be going nowhere, much to the dismay of the 23-year-old.

"I am staying at Wolfsburg," Dzeko told Sky Sport 24. "But I am not happy, I would like to join Milan, but I am tied to a contract and the club have decided not to release me."

Wolfsburg are thought to be offering Dzeko a new improved deal to keep him at the club and it could mean Milan step up their interest in Arsenal ace Emmanuel Adebayor as an alternative to Dzeko.

Door open for Ronaldinho

Football

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Ronaldinho, the former World and European Player of the Year who was left out of Brazil's squad for the Confederations Cup, still has a role to play for Brazil, coach Dunga said on Saturday.

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Before the tournament started Dunga said he wanted Ronaldinho to return to full form before he picked him again.



RONALDINHO

Ronaldinho has failed to settle at AC Milan since his move from Barcelona last year and has recently been confined mostly to the bench.

He was substituted in Brazil's 1-1 World Cup qualifying draw in Ecuador last March after one of his worst performances at international level and found him-

self among the substitutes for the following game at home to Peru and came on late in the match with Brazil already leading 3-0.

However, Brazil have not exactly missed him in South Africa over the last two weeks, despite his impressive international record of 32 goals in 87 international appearances. Brazil scored 10 goals in their three opening matches against Egypt (4-3), U.S. (3-0) and Italy (3-0) in the qualifying group and, although they only beat hosts South Africa 1-0 in Thursday's semifinal, they still created 23 scoring opportunities in the match, according to FIFA's official statistics.

Dunga also rejected a remark made by Franz Beckenbauer on Friday that Brazil's attack of Robinho, Luis Fabiano and Kaka, was not potent enough to win the World Cup next year.

"Anyone can have an opinion," said Dunga. "So let's just look at the number of goals we scored here."

"We had the best attack in the group stages and scored 10 goals and you can't argue against the numbers and the facts."

Bayern can keep Ribery

Football

SOCERNET

Bayern Munich sporting director Christian Nerlinger believes the club can convince Franck Ribery to stay by matching his lofty ambition.

Ribery has made no secret of his desire to play for the likes of Real Madrid or Barcelona while Chelsea and Manchester United are also tracking the Frenchman, who Bayern claim is one of the best three players in the world at present.

The parties consider the details of the failure of the negotiations to be confidential, therefore will not disclose more information.

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