

## Anderson frustrated

SOCCERNET

Anderson has denied he wants to quit Manchester United but admitted he is frustrated at his lack of first-team opportunities so far this season.

The Brazilian midfielder's only start came in last week's defeat by Burnley - in an unfamiliar left-wing position - and he is reported to have clashed with boss Sir Alex Ferguson after being left out of the team for the Community Shield meeting with Chelsea earlier this month.

Anderson told the Daily Mail: "I believed that I would play in the Community Shield but that is forgotten now."

"I thought that, without Cristiano Ronaldo around, I could play more and that has been my challenge from pre-season onwards."

"But the coach decides the teams and to discuss this with him is foolish because he is the chief. I do not want to leave United. No."

"Sir Alex Ferguson has demanded a bigger effort from me and I accept that. Because to get into this United team is very complicated and difficult for any player."

## Barca to up Chygrynskiy offer

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona are set to offer Ukrainian side Shakhtar Donetsk 25 million euros for their central defender Dmitro Chygrynskiy, according to reports Wednesday.

Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola has kept a close eye on the 22-year-old Ukrainian as he bids to reinforce his squad before the transfer deadline on August 31.

"He knows how to play football, and we need to sign him," Guardiola told Catalan television channel TV3 earlier this week.

Shakhtar are currently unwilling to sell but Catalan sports daily Mundo Deportivo claimed Wednesday Barcelona have "pulled out all the stops" in a bid to sign Chygrynskiy.

After winning the Spanish Super Cup last weekend Barcelona could pick up their second trophy of the season when they face Shakhtar in the final of the European Super Cup, which pits last season's Champions League winners against the UEFA Cup champions.

Barcelona became the first Spanish club to achieve the treble of the Spanish league, King's Cup and Champions League titles last season.

This season they could theoretically aim for another five trophies, following their most recent success, in the league, Cup, Champions League, European Super Cup and the Club World Cup being held in December in the United Arab Emirates.

## Sneijder refuses Inter move

INTERNET, undated

Dutch midfielder Wesley Sneijder refused Tuesday to travel to Italy, where he had been expected to sign a new contract with Serie A champions Inter Milan after two seasons at Real Madrid. According to the online editions of Spain's major newspapers, the midfielder has refused to budge although the Spanish giants have taken away his number 10 shirt and locker in the team's locker-room.

"After the deal had been completed between the teams, the footballer was expected in Milan this afternoon to sign the terms of his new contract. But the player has already told (Real Madrid) that he is not going to catch a plane and will stay in Madrid," El Mundo said in its online edition.

Sneijder, 25, said recently that he preferred to remain with Real, but the club had made it equally clear that they were not planning to field him this season.

Inter Milan needs a midfielder and was said to have offered a transfer fee of about 15 million euros (21.4 million dollars), which Real Madrid had reportedly accepted.

According to Spanish radio network Cadena SER, Sneijder's salary was one of the roots of the problem. He earns 4 million euros (5.7 million dollars) at Real Madrid and Inter Milan only offered the player 3.5 million euros (5 million dollars).



PHOTO: AFP

Olympique Lyon striker Lisandro Lopez celebrates his second goal against Anderlecht during their Champions League qualifier at the Constant Vanden Stock Stadium in Brussels on Tuesday.

## Lisandro fires Lyon

AFP, Paris



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

A first-half hat-trick from new Argentinian signing Lisandro Lopez crushed Anderlecht's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League group stages as Lyon showed their last 32 credentials in a 3-1 win in Belgium.

Thanks to their 5-1 victory over the Belgian side at the Gerland stadium last week, giving them an 8-2 aggregate result, Lyon were the most convincing team of the five who qualified for the group stage on Tuesday.

Elsewhere Maccabi Haifa joined the lucrative stages of Europe's premier club competition with a 3-0 win over FC Salzburg which gave the Israelis a 5-1 victory over the Austrians.

Debrecen secured their ticket in similar fashion, becoming the first Hungarian side to qualify for the group stages since Ferencváros in 1995 by beating Bulgarian outfit Levski Sofia 2-0 at home on the night for an aggregate of 4-1.

Ventspils had been hoping to become the first Latvian side to qualify for the group stages however despite scoring a goal at FC Zurich they were defeated 2-1, for an aggregate score of 5-1.

Atletico Madrid had taken a major stride towards qualification with a 3-2 win away at Panathinaikos last week and confirmed their superiority over the Greeks with a 2-0 win in Madrid which puts them among the last 32 for the second year running.

In the past 10 years Lyon have been regulars in the group stages, reaching the quarterfinals in 2006 when they were eliminated by AC Milan.

Having lost the French league title for the first time in eight seasons in May, to Bordeaux, the French giants were forced to come through qualifying.

But despite predictions of a close two-leg fixture against Anderlecht, Claude Puel's side showed they more than deserve to join Europe's elite.

After their 5-1 mauling of the Belgians last week in Lyon, where Lisandro scored their second goal from a penalty in the 15th minute, Anderlecht had a mountain to climb in this second leg.

Lining up alongside fellow Argentine Cesar Delgado, on the left wing, Lisandro bounced back in style from a groin strain at the weekend to put the French side into the lead with a superb lob in the 25th minute following an error in the hosts' defence.

Barely seven minutes later the former FC Porto striker pounced on Anthony Reveillere's pass to double his score.

Lisandro added a third four minutes before half-time after pouncing on a rebound from Delgado, the Argentine later being substituted on the hour mark for 17-year-old Ishak Belfodil. The loss sees Anderlecht drop down to the Europa League.

Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas said: "That was an achievement. We thought we could qualify but at the same time very difficult up against a pretty strong anderlecht side and they'll prove that in the Europa League."

"As we saw last week Lyon were very strong," said Anderlecht coach Ariel Jacobs.

"In the first leg we laid out the red carpet for them, today we offered them nice presents: two goals out of three! If we can get away with certain mistakes in the Belgian league we can't do that in the Champions League."

Atletico manager Abel Resino meanwhile reflected on a job well done against Panathinaikos.

"Our objective wasn't to put on a great match but to make it into the group stage. Occasionally we lacked fluidity in our play but overall we had a serious game, which was the most important."

Wednesday's second leg play-offs feature Arsenal aiming to drive home their 2-0 first leg advantage over Celtic at the Emirates Stadium.

## Ribery ready for playmaker role

INTERNET, undated



BUNDES LIGA

Franck Ribery says he is ready to take on a playmaker role in central midfield under new coach Louis van Gaal at Bayern Munich. Ribery told Sports Bild newspaper on Wednesday he was ready to give the position a try although he preferred playing in a more left-wing position.

Van Gaal sees Ribery in a central role behind the strikers as he tries to introduce tactical changes in his first season at the club.

Ribery took part in full training on Monday as he steps up his recovery from a groin strain but will not play in a friendly at second-division Union Berlin on Wednesday.

He is likely to be in the Bayern squad for Saturday's visit by champions Wolfsburg but may not play from the start.

"I will give the number 10 (playmaker) position a go and see if it works," he was quoted as saying by Sports Bild.

## Real fans laud decision

INTERNET, undated

The fans of Real Madrid are supportive of the decision of Wesley Sneijder to stay at the club, according to an online poll taken by sports daily AS. Eighty-four per cent of the 47,163 readers who participated in the poll have voted in favour of the Dutch midfielder staying at the Estadio Bernabeu.

Real director general Jorge Valdano has been trying to offload Sneijder all summer, in order to make way for the club's new signings.

On Tuesday Sneijder seemed poised to sign for Inter Milan, but apparently backed out of the move at the last moment.

According to Spanish media reports, Atletico Madrid - who on Tuesday booked their place in the group phase of the Champions League - are also interested in the Dutchman.

Sneijder, 25, was bought by Real from Ajax in 2007 for around 27 million euros (38.62 million dollars).

He was an immediate success in the famous white shirt, helping the club to win La Liga in his first year, but struggled with injuries and poor form last season.

## IN BRIEF

### French mayor bans spitting

AFP, Le Mans

In a bid to halt the spread of swine flu, the mayor of a small French town banned spitting on Tuesday and wrote to football chiefs to demand that footballers who spit be sent off.

"On this day, I issue a decree that henceforth in my district spitting on a public thoroughfare will be banned," declared Christophe Rouillon, mayor of the town of Coulaines, near Le Mans in northern France.

France had considered itself spared the worst of the A(H1N1) flu pandemic until this week, when an outbreak in French Polynesia and a change in the method of counting cases put the issue back on the front page.

Going beyond the ban on public expectation by his own constituents, Rouillon also wrote a letter to Michel Platini, the French head of European football's governing body UEFA, demanding that players set a better example.

"One spitting incident should be punished with a yellow card, and repeat offenders should be shown a red card," he suggested.

### Jack Charlton hospitalised

AFP, Newcastle

Former England World Cup winner Jack Charlton has been hospitalised after collapsing during a family holiday in Spain, his son confirmed on Tuesday.

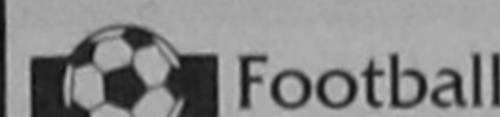
The 74-year-old was taken to a private clinic after falling ill in Mascarat, on the Costa Blanca, complaining of problems with his eyes.

MRI and CAT scans and heart tests have proved inconclusive so far.

John Charlton said his father was back with his family after being discharged with medication to treat high blood pressure.

He told the Evening Chronicle in Newcastle: "It was a scare at the time and he's been in for three days but he has had more tests and checks than he would have had in the UK."

## Violence mars derby



AFP, London

British police were Wednesday hunting those responsible for "large-scale" violence at a match between London rivals West Ham and Millwall, which revived memories of the hooliganism of past decades.

A 44-year-old man was in a stable condition after being stabbed in the chest and two other men were treated for non life-threatening injuries after fighting flared before Tuesday's League Cup match at West Ham's Upton Park ground.

Inside the stadium, fans invaded the pitch and interrupted the match while police and stewards attempted to remove them.

More than 200 riot police and 20 police on horseback battled to contain the violence inside and outside the stadium.

John Whittingham, who lives near nearby, said supporters were bombarding each other and police with anything they could find.

"People were throwing bricks but I haven't got a clue where they were finding them. Some people were trying to rip bollards off the pavement. There were also some small fires lit," he said.

A 19-year-old man said: "People were chipping bricks off buildings and throwing them at police. I saw one officer getting kicked as he was on the ground."

Television pictures showed fans bleeding from head wounds.

London's Metropolitan Police, which made at least 10 arrests, said the violence was "large-scale" and appeared to have been pre-meditated.

"It looks like there has been some planned trouble from fans," a Metropolitan Police spokesman said.

"We will be reviewing all the events, looking at CCTV both inside and outside the ground to identify offences and offenders."

A Football Association spokeswoman condemned the incidents as a throwback to the bad old days of English football in the 1970s and 1980s, when matches were frequently scarred by fighting between rival fans.

"We will be working with all parties, including the police and clubs, to establish the facts surrounding tonight's events," she said on Tuesday.

The spokeswoman added: "We strongly expect all culprits to be banned from football for life. They have no place in our game."

West Ham won 3-1 after extra time in the first match between the London clubs for four years. West Ham are in the top-tier Premier League while Millwall are in League One, effectively the third tier, and so the clubs do not meet in league matches.

The violence came in a troubled week for West Ham, whose defender Calum Davenport and his mother were stabbed on Saturday in a suspected attempted murder at the family home. The 26-year-old required surgery on both legs.

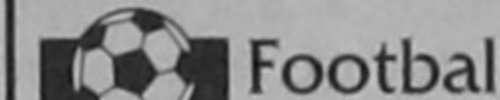
Malcolm Clarke, the chairman of the Football Supporters' Federation, said he recognised the serious nature of the crowd disturbances but called for authorities to avoid "hysterical over-reactions".

"It's not a good start to the season and it's important a full investigation is done, and the FA are going to do this with all parties to see exactly what caused this," he said.

"It's too early I think to start drawing too many long-term conclusions, but obviously this was a very serious incident."

He added: "I can assure you the vast majority of Millwall and West Ham supporters will be as horrified by events that occurred as everybody else."

## City seal Lescott deal



SOCCERNET

After being unveiled as the second most expensive British defender of all time on Wednesday, new Manchester City signing Joleon Lescott said he was "disappointed" with some of David Moyes' comments prior to his departure from Everton.

The defender joined City late on Tuesday night for a fee in the region of £22m, bringing to an end a transfer saga that grew increasingly embittered as Moyes criticised City for their conduct in pursuing Lescott.

The Toffees manager also claimed that Lescott had displayed a "poor attitude" when dropping him for the club's Europa League victory over Sigma Olomouc and that the defender had "disappointed his teammates" by focusing on a move to City.

But Lescott disagrees with his former manager's assessment, even if he concedes that he

was below par in Everton's opening day 6-1 defeat at the hands of Arsenal.

"I was disappointed in the comments, I feel they're inaccurate," Lescott said. "I'd like to address them at a later date and talk more positively about my move here."

"I don't think I disrespected any of the players. If I did I apologise. I'd like to think they thought I gave my all when I played. I know it wasn't my finest game for Everton (against Arsenal). It was a collective effort and obviously Arsenal were better than us on the day."

Meanwhile, former Everton teammate Tony Hibbert says Lescott's departure is a blow to a club that are hoping to secure a European finish this season.

"He's a big loss. He was a great player for us, Joleon, and a great lad as well," Hibbert told the club's official website. "The character he brought to the place - he was a great lad to be around."

"It's just one of those things - players come and players go, that's football really. You have friends but the next minute they can go. We've just got to get over it."

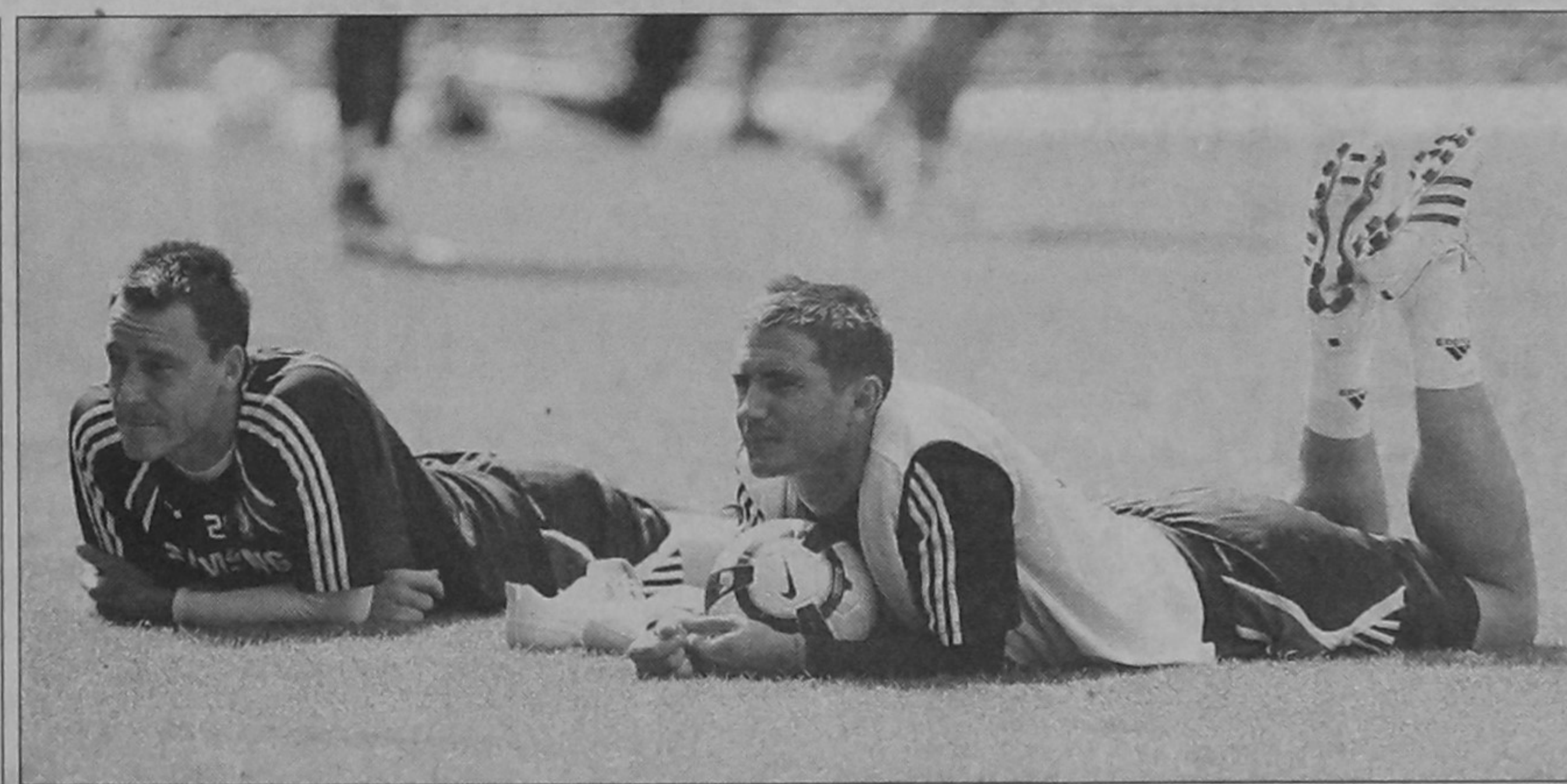


PHOTO: AFP

Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard (R) and defender John Terry rest during a training session at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday.

## Real begin new era

AFP, Madrid



LFP

A global recession has most football clubs tightening their purse strings, but Real Madrid don't seem to care flexing their financial muscle with a staggering summer spending spree in excess of 250 million euros (357 million dollars) to try and re-establish themselves as the top team in Spain and Europe.

Last season that honour went to their arch rivals Barcelona as they won an unprecedented league, Kings Cup and Champions League treble and Real have responded with a massive financial investment to ensure they are not second best again.

Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo is expected to spearhead the Real revival following a world record 94-million-euro (132 million dollars) move from Manchester United with his skills and looks making him Madrid's latest marketing tool.

"The great players cost a lot of money and I'm happy to be the most expensive player in the world," said an ever confident Ronaldo.

"I will show that the money Real have paid is a good decision."

Brazilian playmaker Kaka, 27, is the other world star to join the Real revival arriving for a cool 68.5 million euro (98 million dollars) from AC Milan.

Kaka said he only left Milan due to their financial troubles and revealed that ex-Milan teammate David Beckham had recommended Real having played there for four seasons.

President Florentino Perez brought the so-called 'Galacticos' of Beckham, Luis Figo and Zinedine Zidane to Madrid in his first spell at the club and his unopposed re-election this summer has signalled a second era of superstars.

Ronaldo and Kaka are joined by Spanish

internationals Xabi Alonso and Raul Albiol who join from Liverpool and Valencia respectively.

Alonso will be the midfield anchor to balance what looks an attacking-minded side while Albiol has been brought in to shore up a defence that leaked too many goals last season - underlined by Barcelona's memorable 6-2 romp at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Up front exciting French striker Karim Benzema, 21, has been plucked from Lyon for 35 million euros (50 million dollars).

"With players like Kaka, Ronaldo and Raul, it will be very easy for us to get goals," predicted Benzema.

Real certainly have an enviable squad and with all the exciting new signings it is easy to forget that they also have a new manager in Manuel Pellegrini who has been recruited from Villarreal.

Since 2003 Real have had nine different coaches and Pellegrini knows that the huge outlay means he will be under more pressure to deliver trophies.

While Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola has a settled team brimming with confidence from a treble triumph, Pellegrini has a collection of players who hardly know each other and he must quickly get them into a cohesive unit.

"It will not be easy because there are lots of internationals and not all of them can play at the same time," said Pellegrini. "We have 23 quality players. Some players are more expensive than the rest but they are all very good."

A lot is always expected of Real in Europe but this Champions League campaign will have increased pressure as the final is being played at their Santiago Bernabeu stadium on May 22.

Real have failed to get past the last 16 stage since 2004 and last season had to watch their foes Barcelona lift the trophy in Rome.

The season's curtain raiser sees Real at home to Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday in a repeat of last season's opener when they lost 2-1 at the Riazor stadium.

## Diamanti close to West Ham switch

AFP, Rome

Livorno striker Alessandro Diamanti is on the verge of joining countryman Gianfranco Zola at West Ham after the Italian's club president admitted he had received an offer too good to turn down.

The 26-year-old scored 16 goals in 36 Serie B matches last season as Livorno returned to Serie A at the first attempt.

And Livorno president Aldo Spinelli says he cannot stand in the way of his player's dream move.

"Unfortunately I think it is impossible to keep hold of him and deny the player his dream," said Spinelli.

"He was earning 50,000 euros a year three years ago and now he has an offer of six million euros over five years."

"We had to let the player realise his dream because he deserves it and has helped us a lot over the last three years."

Diamanti has little pedigree at the top level having played only one season in Serie A with Livorno in 2007-08, scoring just four goals in 26 games.

Before that he played for a variety of clubs in the Italian lower leagues.