

C'Ron warns Barca

AFP, Madrid
Barcelona will face a "very different" Real Madrid when the two sides clash next month for the first time since Jose Mourinho took over as coach...

Under his watch Real are first in the Spanish league with 20 points after eight matches, a point clear of Barca and Villarreal. Ronaldo, who signed for Real in 2009 for 94 million euros...

Tevez feeling homesick

AFP, London
Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini expects Carlos Tevez to stay with the Premier League club even though he conceded the Argentina striker may be feeling homesick...

Referring to reports of his star striker being homesick, Mancini said: "He never talks to me about this, but I think it is normal. "When you are in another country for a long time, it is normal that sometimes you need your country or your family...



Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho (L) takes evasive action against a Cristiano Ronaldo shot during a training session at sport city yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

UEFA awards Italy 3-0 win

AFP, Geneva
UEFA on Friday ordered Serbia to play a home match behind closed doors and awarded Italy a 3-0 win after their Euro 2012 qualifier three weeks ago was cancelled because of crowd trouble...

Brutal battle awaits Chelsea

AFP, London
Chelsea captain John Terry has warned his team-mates to expect a brutal battle when the Premier League leaders travel to Blackburn on Saturday...

unfair criticism. "We can't just go there and expect to pick up the three points because we're Chelsea Football Club. We need to go there and be prepared to have a scrap..."

With Rooney recovering from injury in Dubai, Hernandez has taken the chance to display his predatory instincts as United try to keep pace with Chelsea...

Redknapp's side can end that barren run. "Why not go there and try to win? I know Tottenham haven't won at Old Trafford for a long time, so why not now?" Modric said...

Rooney out indefinitely

Football
Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney could be out of action for longer than the initial prognosis of three weeks, manager Sir Alex Ferguson said on Friday...

"He's got the right desires and trains very well. He's very receptive to coaching and has a good pedigree. "He's a young boy who has come from Mexico and a different culture. But he speaks the language which is important..."

The Serbian Football Federation (FSS) were ordered to play two home matches in an empty stadium, with one match suspended for two years...

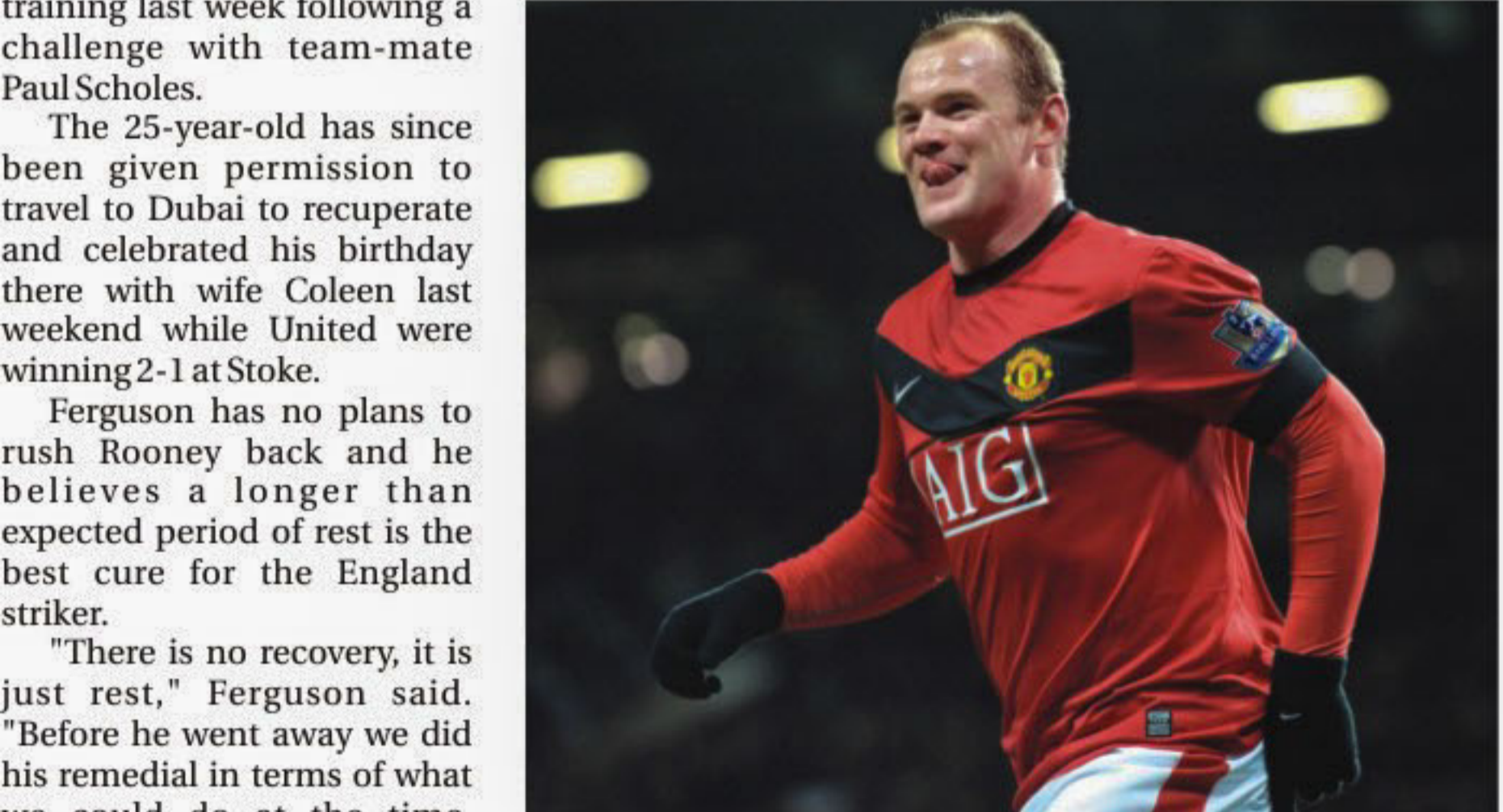
Meanwhile, Arsene Wenger insists Arsenal have a strong enough squad to challenge for every major trophy this season. The Gunners, who host struggling London rivals West Ham on Saturday, moved into second place in the table after last weekend's 3-0 rout of Manchester City...

Manchester United will once again look to young Mexican striker Javier Hernandez to fill in for Wayne Rooney in Saturday's clash with Tottenham...

"There is no feeling that we are dispirited by what happened on Sunday, it is just the opposite," he said. "This game can be important because now we understand that we are a very strong team, that we play together and we have the right spirit in the team..."

On Sunday, Liverpool aim to climb out of the relegation zone when they visit Bolton, while two fiercely contested local derbies see Aston Villa host Birmingham and Sunderland make the short trip to Newcastle...

Table with 2 columns: Day (Saturday, Sunday, Monday) and Fixtures (Arsenal v West Ham, Chelsea v Everton, Wolves v Man City, etc.)



WAYNE ROONEY

Sevilla's toughest test

AFP, Madrid
Champions Barcelona have taken the plaudits over the past two seasons for their stylish football but Jose Mourinho's goal-plundering Real Madrid have bagged the limelight of late while Barca look a shadow of the side that has won back-to-back league titles...

quadruple in the 6-1 win over Racing Santander took him onto nine league goals. The Portuguese has been accused of being too individual in the past and has looked much more of a team player since Mourinho's arrival...

Mourinho had his name chanted by the fans during the Racing win and even a 0-0 Kings Cup first leg draw at Real Murcia on Tuesday when a second string Real team took to the field...

Ronaldinho recalled by Brazil

AFP, Rio De Janeiro
Brazil coach Mano Menezes on Friday named Ronaldinho in his squad for the prestigious friendly game against arch-rivals Argentina in Doha, Qatar on November 17...

Ribery on the mend

Football
Bayern Munich winger Franck Ribery said on Friday that he is close to making a return from injury, as coach Louis van Gaal expressed his regret at letting Miroslav Klose return too soon...

Gaal. "Obviously we went too fast. I made a mistake. It's the first time that I've listened to a player. At 32, you'd think that a player would know better, but a player always wants to play..."

Zidane set for C League role

AFP, Madrid
Former Real Madrid star Zinedine Zidane is set for a more hands-on role at the Spanish giants, especially during Champions League matches, the club's director general Jorge Valdano said on Thursday...

Barcelona lie a point behind Real Madrid in third place, but Pep Guardiola's side have a tough test on Saturday at home to Kings Cup holders Sevilla while Real are at promoted Hercules...

Valencia v Real Zaragoza (1600GMT), Hercules v Real Madrid (1800GMT), Barcelona v Sevilla (2000GMT)

"The fact that we have won (the previous) two titles doesn't mean we don't have any pressure to deal with," said Barca coach Guardiola. "It is a huge challenge for us this season..."

Squad list including goalkeepers (Victor Gremlo, Jefferson Botafogo), defenders (Daniel Alves, Rafael, etc.) and forwards (Robinho, Alexandre Pato).

Table with 2 columns: Position (Goalkeepers, Defenders, Forwards) and Player Name (Victor Gremlo, Jefferson Botafogo, Daniel Alves, etc.)

"He will accompany us always during Champions League matches, and in some league matches," Valdano told reporters when asked about what the former French international's new role at the club alongside coach Jose Mourinho will be...

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Table with 2 columns: Day (Saturday, Sunday, Monday) and Fixtures (Valencia v Real Zaragoza, etc.)

Sevilla are sixth, six points behind pacesetters Real, but must do without goalkeeper Andres Palop due to a foot injury...

Table with 2 columns: Position (Goalkeepers, Defenders, Forwards) and Player Name (Victor Gremlo, Jefferson Botafogo, Daniel Alves, etc.)