

Leonardo fears revenge

AFP, Milan



Inter Milan coach Leonardo believes Bayern Munich will be gunning for revenge when they arrive in Italy for the pair on Wednesday.

Inter claimed their first European title in 45 years when Jose Mourinho led them to a 2-0 victory over the Germans in the final in Madrid last May. But having finished second to Tottenham in the group stages, Inter were handed one of the toughest second round draws possible.

And Leonardo, who took over the club reins in late December after the dismissal of Mourinho's successor Rafael Benitez, is expecting Louis van Gaal's team to be highly motivated. "That will still be playing on their minds," said Leonardo about the Madrid final.

"It will still be fresh in the Bayern players' memory that Inter ended years of Champions League frustration by winning it when they beat them. A lot of things have changed since then but the past will always be there."

When the draw was made it was debatable as to which side would have

been considered favourites as Inter were struggling both at home and in Europe.

But Leonardo has revived their fortunes and 10 wins in his 12 matches in charge is testament to the Brazilian's effect on the team.

Inter have also become an expansive and attacking team under Leonardo, scoring goals at will but also leaking a few.

And that's not likely to change on Wednesday or in the second leg in Munich three weeks later.

"I don't believe that our style of play will alter dramatically between the home match and the away clash but of course we respect our opponents and we will have a good look at them beforehand," said Leonardo.

"In theory, at home in the second leg Bayern will have a better chance to turn the tie around or to retain an advantage they may have got from the first leg.

"But I think if we secure a good result in the first leg we can contain them away."

With Bayern being a van Gaal team, there is no doubt the game should be a swashbuckling affair as the Germans certainly won't come to defend.

"The self-confidence is there. We want to win, any other result would be rubbish," insisted young forward Thomas Mueller.

And if precedence is anything to go by, then Inter can expect Bayern to have a go at them.

Last season Bayern reached the last game in the group stages at risk of crashing out and needing a win away to Juventus to snatch second place in their group.

And despite going down a goal, Bayern produced a stunning, positive, attacking display to run out 4-1 winners.

However, they have not always been at their best this season and although they won 3-1 away to Mainz at the weekend, Van Gaal is expecting more from his team.

"We gave the ball away unnecessarily far too often, we were very careless in the final quarter of the field," he said. "We know that, and we'll improve. But overall, I'm very satisfied."

In fact both sides are upwardly mobile in their domestic leagues and Inter centre-back Ivan Cordoba believes his side will have to perform to progress.

"We know they had a difficult patch this season but now they're back in great form and that should be an extra motivation for us," he said.

"We need to play a great match and then go away and get a result there too."



PHOTO: AFP

Inter Milan striker Samuel Eto'o (L) jogs with teammates during a training session in Appiano Gentile yesterday on the eve of their Champions League encounter against Bayern Munich.

Gattuso punished

AFP, Paris



AC Milan midfielder Gennaro Gattuso received a four match suspension from UEFA on Monday for headbutting Spurs coach Joe Jordan in last week's Champions League last 16 first leg clash.

He was already suspended for the second leg after being booked.

AC Milan told AFP that the player would not be making any reaction to the punishment and that they were not going to appeal.

The suspension means that Gattuso will not be available for Champions League action until the final - should Milan reach it.

Gattuso cut a frustrated figure during the 1-0 defeat to Tottenham at the San Siro and regularly squared up to beanpole striker Peter Crouch after challenges between the pair.

He also argued with Jordan on the touch-

line before pushing the former Milan player in the neck.

It was after the game that the Italian - who had a spell playing for Rangers and married a Scotswoman - ran over to confront Jordan again before head-butting the 59-year-old.

Gattuso had last week apologised for his actions, though, he said he had been provoked throughout the game by Jordan.

"I lost my head and I'm taking responsibility because I did something I shouldn't have done," said the fiery midfielder, a World Cup winner in 2006.

"Jordan was breaking my balls throughout the second half but that doesn't justify my reaction.

"I was annoyed about the words I'd exchanged with Jordan. We were both speaking Scottish given that I played in his country in Glasgow but I'm not going to say what was said.

"I made a mistake doing what I did to an older person, and that's it."

Tickets can be collected from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Tickets of the ICC Cricket World Cup match between Bangladesh and Ireland will be up for grabs from today at the Shaheed Sorhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur.

Those who have earlier collected vouchers from banks can collect their tickets providing documents at the Indoor Stadium's booths from 10am to 5pm as the distribution of tickets will continue till match-day on February 25.

All the tickets have already been sold out for the match, said a press release yesterday.

Book on WC to be unveiled

SPORTS REPORTER

The cover of the book Cricket Word Cup in Bangladesh written by sports journalists Nazmul Haq Tapan and Ranjan Sen will be unveiled today at the Ekushey Book Fair.

Bangladesh cricket team's former captains Aminul Islam, Habibul Bashar, Khaled Mahmud and former national cricketer Minhazul Abedin will be present at the unveiling of the book, which features description of hosting the world cup, history of the previous world cups, and unknown tales of the heroes of Bangladesh's wins in world cup, and thoughts of Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

The 144-page book, published by Parijat Publishers, has been priced at Tk 180, said a press release.

Giggs misses France trip

REUTERS, Marseille

Ryan Giggs will miss Manchester United's Champions League last-16 first leg at Olympique Marseille on Wednesday (1945 GMT).

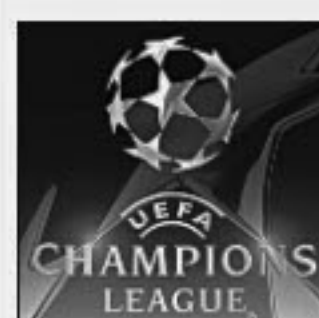
United said on their website (www.manutd.com) on Tuesday that the 37-year-old winger had not travelled to southern France along with six other squad regulars.

No reason was given for Giggs' exclusion but known injuries to Rio Ferdinand, Anderson, Michael Owen, Jonny Evans, Park Ji-sung and Antonio Valencia keep them out.

New goalkeeper Anders Lindegaard makes his first European trip having played in the weekend's FA Cup win over Crawley Town but Edwin van der Sar is set to retake his place.

MU test for Marseille

AFP, Marseille



Having lost striker Andre Pierre Gignac to injury,

Marseille will place even greater emphasis on defence when they host Manchester United in Wednesday's Champions League last 16 first leg.

Gignac left the field in the 74th minute of Marseille's 2-1 defeat of Saint-Etienne on Saturday after sustaining an adductor muscle injury and has been ruled out for 15 days.

After an unconvincing start to his Marseille career, the former Toulouse striker had scored four goals in his previous four league games and his absence forces the French champions into an unwelcome attacking reshuffle.

Fellow forwards Loic Remy and Brandao also failed to finish the game against Saint-Etienne after picking up knocks in the second half, but both are expected to be fit for the clash at Stade Velodrome.

France international midfielder Mathieu Valbuena is likely to start on the bench, meanwhile, as he continues his recovery from a knee injury.

With United strong favourites to go through, Marseille coach Didier Deschamps says his side will have to do everything they

can to prevent the three-time European champions from claiming a precious away goal.

"They were unbeaten in the group phase," said Deschamps, who captained OM to Champions League success in 1993.

"They're a team with huge talent up front but they're also a team that defends very, very well. I don't think there will be lots of goals.

"Knowing that the first leg is at our place and knowing the importance of away goals, of course we'll do

everything to score but we know that it will also be important not to concede at the Velodrome."

Having begun the defence of their Ligue 1 title with back-to-back defeats, Marseille have had to dig deep to fight their way back into the title race and currently trail leaders Lille by three points.

The win over Saint-Etienne was their third consecutive league success, but holding midfielder Edouard Cisse knows that victory will not be easily acquired

against United, who reached the quarterfinals last season.

"A little 0-0 draw would be fine with us, objectively speaking," Cisse told the Ligue 1 website. "Obviously I'd love to win 4-0 or 5-0.

"It's true that we beat Chelsea (1-0) in our final group game but we were both already qualified and it was more like a friendly match.

"We're obviously expecting a much tougher match against United."

United are currently four points clear of Arsenal in the Premier League but they endured an uncomfortable afternoon on Saturday when they only managed to beat non-league (fifth division) Crawley Town 1-0 in the FA Cup.

"There is no doubt a few players did not do themselves justice," said scathing United coach Sir Alex Ferguson.

"It was disappointing. We had some players who maybe don't understand what FA Cup football is like."

United lost Brazilian twins Rafael and Fabio da Silva to injury during the course of the game with Crawley and also had to withdraw their midfield compatriot Anderson after he sustained a hamstring problem.

Former South Korea midfielder Park Ji-Sung, meanwhile, has been ruled out of the Marseille trip with a hamstring injury.

Arsenal aim to rebound

AFP, London



Arsene Wenger's Arsenal side have no time to lick their wounds after the shock of being held by League One Leyton Orient in the FA Cup fifth round clash on Sunday.

The cost of competing in four competitions means that games are coming thick and fast for the Gunners and the visit of Stoke City to the Emirates Stadium on Wednesday provides Wenger's players with an early opportunity to return to winning ways.

The manager made ten changes to his side following the exciting Champions League victory over Barcelona but the Frenchman justifiably expected his second string to beat a side from the third tier.

The draw means, however, that yet another fixture must now be squeezed into the calendar, underlying the importance of sticking to Wenger's strategy to look no further than the next game.

Meetings with Stoke have carried an extra edge ever since City's Ryan Shawcross's reckless challenge on Aaron Ramsey left the teenage Arsenal midfielder with a badly broken leg.

And Wenger has never been shy to highlight the two clubs' conflicting approach to the game, describing Stoke's direct, physical style as being more akin to rugby on occasions.

There will certainly be little warmth on the touchline between Wenger and his opposite number Tony Pulis and the relationship will get frostier still should Arsenal fail to claim the win that would take them to within a point of leaders Manchester United having played a game more.

A further distraction awaits at the end of the week when Arsenal will attempt to end their five-season wait for silverware by beating Birmingham City in the League Cup final at Wembley.

But midfielder Alex Song, the only player to start both the Barcelona and Orient games, insists focus is now trained exclusively on Stoke.

"It is not good to have another match (the FA Cup replay) but I am 100 per cent sure we will win the game at Emirates," said Song.

"We managed the game well apart from the last ten or 15 minutes. But we need to leave this game because we have an important match on Wednesday. The win is very important for the League.

"It is important just to take the next step. If we win this game we are a point behind Manchester United.

"We are working hard because this year is very important. Everybody has waited for this moment."

Wenger will inevitably make changes with a number of senior players returning to the line-up but his selection will undoubtedly be made with one eye on the weekend.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The winners at the Pepsi Change The Game engagement session pose for a photo at Amazon Club yesterday. The best performers in various games won prizes ranging from WC group match tickets, opportunities to go out with the drink trolley during matches, Pepsi gift hampers and the mega-prize of a ticket to the WC final.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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ACROSS

1 Jungfrau, for one
4 Docket entry
8 White spread
12 Vast expanse
13 Awe-struck
14 Pinnacle
15 Fence for defense
17 Anatomical network
18 See 6-Down
19 Ache aid
21 Pluto, once
24 Historic boy king
25 Tease
26 Tear
28 Re Benedict XVI
32 Earthenware pot
34 Promptly
36 Tibetan monk
37 Commemorative pillar
39 Homer's interjection

DOWN

1 Venomous viper
2 Meadow
3 Easily perceived
4 Friendly ghost
5 — Khan
6 With 18-Across, carbonated drink
7 Spew out
8 Wedlock-related
9 Unoriginal one
10 Bigfoot's cousin
11 The yoke's on them
16 Accelerator bit
20 Young seal
21 Experts
22 Springlike melody
23 Stannum
27 Spacecraft compartment
29 Cream-colored horse
30 Andy's pal
31 Strip of wood
33 Fettuccine sauce
35 Moo goo gai pan
38 Hearty brew
40 Com-mandeer
43 Let off the hook?
45 Cudgel
46 Kernels' cores
47 Wrinkly citrus
48 Bobbin
49 Recording
53 Whopper
54 Siesta
55 Type measures

Solution time: 25 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

PE N BHFHQEWF, BJNAAM
XPQC KNMK KHGSAJPID
KNAPQPNBF, P DWSKK AJNA
GPDJA XS N RNQHAM RNQHCM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BROADWAY MUSICAL ABOUT PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO VISIT A CERTAIN INDIAN METROPOLIS: "HELLO, DELHI!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals S