

# Rooney gets 3-match ban

INTERNET, Undated



UEFA came down hard on England's Wayne Rooney October 13, issuing a three-match ban for kicking a player during qualifying play October 7. Rooney was shown a red card when he kicked Montenegro defender Miodrag Dzudovic in the 74th minute of their qualifying match that ended in a 2-2 draw.

The normal one-match ban after a red card can be added to when the governing body feels the action represents something beyond the level of even a hard tackle. UEFA's rule book calls for three-game bans in cases judged to be an assault.

Rooney did not appear at the hearing, but can do so at an appeal if one is scheduled. England's Football Association can request an appeal on Rooney's behalf, but hasn't yet indicated if it will do so, saying they will study the decision first. They have three days to decide if they wish to file with disciplinary committee.

England earned enough points to take the top spot in Group G and is through to the tournament, while Montenegro came in second and will get a chance to advance in the playoffs held that include second-place finishers.

England will not know who they will face in group play for the tournament until the draw takes place December 2 in Kiev, but they will be without Rooney for all their group matches unless the ruling is overturned on appeal.

It's a huge suspension that could determine whether or not England makes it out of group. Anyone who follows Rooney's exploits with Manchester United knows just how good he can be, but also how volatile. His emotions got the best of him October 7 in Podgorica, and his actions may have ramifications for the entire tournament.



# Tevez's City future uncertain

AFP, Undated

Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini said he didn't know whether Carlos Tevez would play for the club again Friday after the Argentinian striker returned to training this week.

A Manchester City official warned journalists not to ask questions about Tevez at Mancini's weekly press conference, as the club mulls action against the player over his refusal to appear as a substitute against Bayern Munich.

Tevez was forced to train alone on Thursday after returning to the club, fueling speculation the former club captain may be frozen out before being sold in the January transfer window.

Asked if Tevez had a future at the club, Mancini responded: "I don't know."

Earlier, a City spokesman warned the press conference would be terminated if questions about Tevez were asked, prompting booing from journalists.

"We have been unable to allow questions about Carlos Tevez today, either to Carlos in general, his alleged conduct on the night in question, or the ramifications of that conduct," said the official.

"Questions also in relation to his future at the club are strictly off limits today and won't be answered. Breaches of this will result in the press conference being cancelled."

A relaxed Mancini meanwhile assured City supporters he was not feeling the strain of recent weeks, saying his experience in charge of Inter Milan had prepared him well for life at the club.

"If you speak with Rafael Benitez, with Marcello Lippi, with Leonardo, Inter Milan is a strong team for any manager," he said.

"If you stay there for four years, you are strong enough to be at every club."

"I don't have any problems. I have had experiences in my life. Why should I have any pressure?"

# Forlan blow for Inter

REUTERS, Rome



Inter Milan's woes continue with the news that striker Diego Forlan could be out for up to two months after pulling a hamstring in Uruguay's World Cup qualifying

match against Paraguay on Tuesday.

Dutch playmaker Wesley Sneijder, who missed the controversial 3-0 home defeat by Napoli two weeks ago, has recovered from injury for the testy trip to Catania in Saturday's early game (1600) with the Nerazzurri hovering just above the drop zone.

President Massimo Moratti has denied reports of a possible loan return of Anzhi Makhachkala forward Samuel Eto'o during the long Russian winter.

"I know absolutely nothing about this. It's a strange idea and not worth talking about because it's about 90 percent impossible to work out," he told www.inter.it.

AS Roma go into Sunday's derby against Lazio (1845) without skipper Francesco Totti who is out with a thigh strain.

Roma, who are sixth in Serie A - one place above their city rivals - after recovering from a shaky start to the season under new coach Luis Enrique, are likely to be without Chilean playmaker David Pizarro who also has a thigh injury.

Lazio striker Miroslav Klose is likely to be fit. The 33-year old, who is recovering from the knee injury that forced him to pull out of Germany's squad for Tuesday's final Euro 2012 qualifier against Belgium, has scored three goals in his first five Serie A games.

Lazio have not beaten Roma since 2009.

AC Milan managing director Adriano Galliani has denied the club's players are feeling low after strikers Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Antonio Cassano said they were stressed during international week.

"I'm not a psychologist," Galliani told reporters after Cassano was reported as saying he wanted to quit in three years.

# Fergie keen on L'pool tie

AFP, Undated



Alex Ferguson insists Manchester United's meetings with Liverpool still represent the highlight of the Premier League fixture calendar despite the emergence of cross-town rivals City.

The veteran United manager takes his side to Anfield on Saturday for the first meeting between the traditional north-west rivals this season at a time when Manchester City appear to be credible title contenders.

With Liverpool having missed out on Champions League football this season, and standing outside the top four before kick-off at Anfield, it might be expected that the Manchester derby had overtaken the United-Liverpool games as the cornerstone of United's season.

But Ferguson is adamant that his team's encounters with Liverpool remain the highlight of any campaign, not only for him but for the English game in general.

"They are the two most successful

clubs in England, historically," said Ferguson.

"Also, from an industrial point of view, the way industry changed when they opened the (Manchester) Ship Canal--it's all to do with the history of both clubs and the history of both

United-Liverpool game, I have always considered this to be the game of the season in English football.

"And, at the moment, I think it remains there."

The rivalry between the two clubs has not always manifested itself in a positive manner with the two sets of supporters all too often displaying a clear hostility towards each other.

Ferguson, however, believes the rival fans should show more respect towards each other.

"That's (hostility) never going to change. But I think both clubs need each other to be honest with you," added Ferguson.

"The history both clubs have should be appreciated by both sets of fans. That's sometimes annoying when I hear silly chants about Munich, about Hillsborough, I don't think it does either club any good at all because, without each other, there wouldn't be the English league."

"If it came to a stage where fans were banned from each other's ground, it wouldn't really be the same game."

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# Neymar sees red

Football

REUTERS, Undated

Brazil striker Neymar got himself sent off for persistent arguing as nine-man Santos lost 2-1 to Atletico Mineiro in the Brazilian championship on Thursday.

Santos coach Muricy Ramalho said that the 19-year-old, who was booked for dissent and then immediately sent off for applauding the referee's decision, cried in the changing room after the incident.

"He has to stay calm even if the referee is wrong," Ramalho told reporters after Neymar became angry over the referee's failure to award a free kick in the 83rd minute.

Neymar is expected to lead Brazil's attack at the 2014 World Cup but his style is already the subject of controversy.

Some critics say referees do not give him enough protection, others argue that he goes down too easily and is always looking for a free kick.

"He is a top player who has his own style of dribbling and he has to get used to being fouled," Ramalho added.

"Sometimes, he is going to get hunted down. The referee will give two or three free kicks but sometimes they become embarrassed about awarding so many free kicks."

Neymar was one of several players who returned on a charter flight from Mexico where Brazil won a friendly on Tuesday evening, only 48 hours before Thursday's matches.

Six clubs got together to pay for the flight. Reyer, who also played against Mexico, opened the scoring for Atletico Mineiro after six minutes.

Borges converted a penalty to level for South American champions Santos four minutes after halftime, his 21st goal of the championship.

However, the relegation-threatened Roosters regained the lead with another penalty converted by Magno Alves just before the hour.



Brazil starlet Neymar (R) fights for the ball with Mexico's Efraim Juarez during a friendly match in Torreon on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Santos, 13th in the table with 38 points, also had defender Crystian sent off.

Fluminense striker Fred, another player involved in the Mexico game, scored a hat-trick but also missed a penalty as the defending champions beat Coritiba 3-1.

His first goal was the pick, as he controlled the ball on his chest and hooked the ball in with a bicycle kick.

His penalty was saved by goalkeeper Vanderlei with the score at 1-1.

Vasco da Gama came from two goals behind, both scored by substitute Elton, to draw 2-2 at Atletico Paranaense and go level on points with leaders Corinthians, who lost to Botafogo on Wednesday.

Corinthians stayed top on the number of games won.

# Cuper being realistic

REUTERS, Madrid



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Barcelona and Real Madrid are the only teams who can realistically win La Liga due to their vast financial clout, Racing Santander coach Hector Cuper said as his struggling side prepare to take on leaders Barca at the Nou Camp on Saturday.

Cash-strapped Racing are 18th in the 20-team table after six games and have yet to win a match since Argentine Cuper, who led Valencia to successive Champions League finals in 2000 and 2001, took over at the end of June.

Their annual budget was around 30 million euros (\$41.4 million) last season, compared with the estimated 500 million each for Barca and Real, and they were forced to enter administration in July.

"It's because we low budget very tight," in an interlarded on website elona.com).

"There's complain about what and what have," he "We are and we'll our goals. I other teams (apart from Barca and Real) have very little chance of winning the title."

Cuper, who also coached Inter Milan, said his players had the "desire and enthusiasm" to get a result at the Nou Camp (1800 GMT) but beating a team he described as "the closest to perfection he had ever seen" would take a lot more than that.

"The current Barca team have so few weak spots," he said.

"Since I've been in the world of football I've never seen anything like them. They're the best team in the world, far ahead of the rest."

While Cuper and Racing are hoping to come away relatively unscathed from the Catalan capital, promoted Real Betis are confident they can cause an upset against Real Madrid at the Bernabeu in Saturday's earlier kickoff.

## SPORTS POLL

### WEEKLY QUESTION

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## BT

Bangladesh v West Indies

Second ODI (D/N)

Live from 1:30pm

STAR Sports

Shanghai Masters

Semifinals

Live from 3:00pm

English Premiership

Wigan v Bolton

Live from 8:00pm

ESPN

English Premiership

Liverpool v Man United

Live at 6:00pm

Man City v Aston Villa

Live from 8:00pm

Chelsea v Everton

Live from 10:25pm

TEN Action+

La Liga

Real Madrid v Real Betis

Live from 10:00pm

Barcelona v Racing

Live from 12:00am (Sunday)



## Bangladesh v West Indies

Second ODI (D/N)

Time: 1:30pm

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur