

What to WATCH

NEO Sports
French Open
Quarterfinals
Live from 6:00pm
STAR Cricket
England v New Zealand
Third ODI
Live from 7:00pm

ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live from 8:30pm

A League of their own

Thanks to Robin van Persie, signed from Arsenal the previous summer, Man Utd effectively had this title wrapped up for months. Sir Alex Ferguson is celebrating an incredible 13th title, and Man Utd a 20th in their history.





Federer sent packing

AFP, Paris

 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga sent Roger Federer crashing out of the French Open quarterfinals Tuesday to take a step closer to ending France's 30-year wait for a men's champion at Roland Garros.

Sixth-seed Tsonga swept to a 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 triumph to reach his first semi-final in Paris and first by a home player since Gael Monfils in 2008.

The 28-year-will tackle Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer for a place in Sunday's final.

Victory also helped wipe out the misery of his quarterfinal in Paris last year where he had four match points over Novak Djokovic and lost in five sets.

The 17-time Grand Slam title winner also had the advantage of a 9-3 career lead over the French star, but Tsonga had been the man to beat Federer from two sets to love down in the Wimbledon quarterfinals in 2011.

Tsonga had reached the quarterfinals without dropping a set, while 31-year-old Federer had struggled in his fourth round win over Gilles Simon where he had to come back from two sets to one down.

Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer reached the semifinals for the second successive year with a 6-2, 6-1, 6-1 win over compatriot Tommy Robredo. Ferrer will face Jo-Wilfried Tsonga for a place in Sunday's final.

In the woimen's draw world number one Serena Williams survived a huge scare to reach her first semifinal since 2003, defeating unseeded Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

Williams, bidding to win just her second title in Paris, 11 years after her first, looked down and almost out at one stage against the 2009 champion.

Italian fifth seed Sara Errani reached the semifinals with a 6-4, 7-6 (8/6) win over Polish fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska.

Errani will play world number one Serena Williams for a place in Saturday's final.



PHOTO: AFP

Italy's Sara Errani pumps her fists in celebration after beating Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska in the French Open quarterfinals at Roland Garros yesterday.

'Back to Chelsea as a fan'

AFP, London



Jose Mourinho said he was returning to Chelsea with the passion of a supporter after being appointed manager of the Premier League heavyweights for the second time on Monday.

The 50-year-old Portuguese, who led the club to unprecedented success between 2004 and 2007, succeeds interim coach Rafael Benitez and has signed a four-year contract.

His Stamford Bridge comeback was one of the worst-kept secrets in European football, with weeks of media speculation culminating in his admission on Spanish television late on Sunday that he had agreed to move back to west London.

In an interview with Chelsea TV, the club's in-house television channel, Mourinho said his time at the club had left a deep impression that endured throughout his subsequent tenures at Inter Milan and Real Madrid.

"It is exactly the same message, but now I can say I am one of you (supporters) and that makes a little bit of a difference," he said.

"I never hide that in my career in football I had two great passions -- Inter and Chelsea, and Chelsea is more than important for me.

"It was very hard to play against Chelsea. I did it twice, which was not so bad. Now I

promise exactly the same things I promised in 2004, but with the difference we have (now), which is I am one of you."

He added: "It was an easy decision. I met the boss, I met the owner (Roman Abramovich), and in five minutes, after a couple of very short but pragmatic questions, we decided straight away."

Announcing the news of Mourinho's reappointment, Chelsea chief executive Ron Gourlay heralded his "success, drive and ambition", and said he was the "outstand-



ing candidate".

Mourinho arrives from Madrid, where an initially fruitful three-year spell ended in acrimony following an unsuccessful league title defence, a semifinal exit in the Champions League, and the alienation of senior players including goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

Mourinho has brought coaches Rui Faria, Silvano Louro and Jose Morais with him from Madrid and will be officially presented to the media next Monday.

Navas headed to City

AFP, Madrid

Spanish side Sevilla announced that they have accepted a bid from Manchester City for Spanish international Jesus Navas late on Monday night.

"Jesus Navas will leave Sevilla to go to Manchester City," said a statement on the club's website.

"On Monday, Sevilla accepted the offer of the English club, bearing in mind the wishes of the player who will have to pass a medical."

"Navas, after 10 seasons in the first team and a performance level that places him as the best winger in Nervion's history, wants to continue his successful sporting career in English football, more specifically at a club where he can continue growing as a player, as he has publicly declared on various occasions in recent months."

The 27-year-old, who has represented his country on 23 occasions, made 393 appearances in his 10 years with Los Nervioneses.

Jesus extends Benfica contract

AFP, Lisbon

Benfica coach Jorge Jesus has signed a two-year extension to his contract, the Portuguese giants announced on Tuesday.

The club revealed the news in a statement to the Portuguese stock exchange, saying that Jesus will stay at the Estadio da Luz until June 30, 2015.

At the beginning of May, the club's president Luis Filipe Vieira said that reaching an agreement with Jesus over a new deal would be a simple formality.

However, doubt had been cast over his future after Benfica's disastrous finish to the season, which saw them miss out on the Portuguese title to Porto on the final day, lose to Chelsea in the Europa League final after conceding a last-gasp goal, and then lose 2-1 to Vitoria Guimaraes in the Portuguese Cup final, despite leading with 11 minutes to go.

Barzagli in Italy's 23-man squad

SQUAD

 injury, Barzagli came through a training session unscathed on Monday, prompting Prandelli to include the experienced Juve campaigner in his 23-man travelling party.

Antonelli is the only player from Prandelli's initial 30-man squad, named last week, to miss Friday's trip to Prague, as well as the Confederations Cup in Brazil during the second half of the month, due to injury.

Also cut from the initial squad is Cagliari goalkeeper Michael Agazzi, defenders Angelo Ogbonna (Torino) and Andrea Ranocchia (Inter), midfielders Giacomo Bonaventura (Atalanta), Andrea Poli (Sampdoria) and Cagliari striker Marco Sau.

Prandelli sent a message to those he dropped from the squad, which after defeat to Spain in the Euro 2012 final will be keen to come out on top in Brazil as a prelude to a successful World Cup campaign.

"Whoever did not make the squad shouldn't feel rejected or marked. We will continue to follow these players and offer them the chance of a recall.

"It's been a valuable experience, and it won't be their last. I was satisfied with the efforts of the entire squad these past days."

AFP, Milan

Juventus defender Andrea Barzagli was a notable inclusion as Italy coach Cesare Prandelli named a 23-man squad for the Confederations Cup and a World Cup qualifier away to the Czech Republic.

Barzagli was called into the squad following injury to Luca Antonelli, who limped out of a 4-0 friendly win against San Marino in Bologna on Friday.

Despite nursing an Achilles tendon

Martinez set for Everton

AFP, London

Roberto Martinez is set to be appointed as Everton's new manager after Wigan chairman Dave Whelan on Monday claimed he had agreed a compensation deal with the Premier League club.

Martinez was Everton's top choice to succeed David Moyes at Goodison Park after leading Wigan to a shock FA Cup final victory over Manchester City.

The 39-year-old confirmed he wanted to leave Wigan following the Latics' relegation from the Premier League earlier this month and Whelan has granted his wish after negotiating compensation of around 1.5 million pounds.

"Bill Kenwright (Everton chairman) and myself have agreed a deal," Whelan told BBC Sport on Monday.

Martinez, who had snubbed approaches from Liverpool and Aston Villa over the last two years, is now expected to be confirmed as Everton boss later this week.

Heynckes leaves future open

AFP, Berlin



Treble-winning coach Jupp Heynckes has left his future open having said Tuesday he will walk away from Champions League-winners Bayern Munich, take a break and then weigh up his options.

Bayern became the first German team to win the treble of Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup with a 3-2 victory over VfB Stuttgart in Saturday's Cup final.

Heynckes, 68, will be replaced by ex-Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola, whose first training session is scheduled for June 26, but for now a much deserved rest beckons as his Bayern contract ends on June 30.

"I will first of all take a holiday and I won't be coaching either abroad or at home from July 1. Then I'll see how it goes," he said during a 45 minute-long press conference packed with emotion.

"I told my wife after we lost the 2012 Champions League final that I would fulfil my contract, but not continue after that.

"I didn't take a holiday between last season and this one, in the last few weeks I have felt the wear and tear of my age.

"Recovery takes longer. I felt I was at my limit.

"The coach of FC Bayern has to take care of everything, you have to be a bit of a perfectionist and that is what I did."

After around 10,000 fans joined Sunday's celebrations in Munich as Bayern celebrated their treble triumph, Heynckes said he will never forget the season which saw Bayern break or equal 25 league records.

Palermo confirm Gattuso

AFP, Rome

Italy's 2006 World Cup winning midfielder Gennaro Gattuso will take charge of relegated Palermo next season, the club's president Maurizio Zamparini announced on Monday.

"Once the dispute with (under contract boss Giuseppe) Sannino concludes, he (Gattuso) will be able to be our coach," Zamparini told Radio 2 listeners, confirming news already brought to light by the Italian press.

Palermo were relegated to the second tier after finishing third-bottom in Serie A this past campaign, ending a nine-year stay in the top-flight.

Gattuso, 35, has little previous experience on the touchline, having briefly balanced a managerial role while playing for Swiss side FC Sion - a joint-post that lasted just 11 matches before he was sacked - last season.



PHOTO: AFP

Japan midfielder Keisuke Honda (C) shoots the penalty kick to score, what took them to the 2014 World Cup, during their Group B Asian zone qualifying match against Australia in Saitama on Tuesday.

Japan first into World Cup

AFP, Saitama



Keisuke Honda fired Japan into the 2014 World Cup Tuesday with a dramatic injury-time penalty which salvaged a 1-1 draw with Australia and made them the first team to qualify alongside hosts Brazil.

Tommy Oar's fortuitous late strike had looked set to condemn the hosts to an undeserved defeat. But after Matthew McKay handled in the box, Honda drove his spot-kick straight down the middle to earn the necessary point.

The result left the Asian champions seven points clear and uncatchable in Group B, putting them through to their fifth straight World Cup. It is the first time they have sealed qualification on home soil.

"I was nervous. I tried to hit the shot to the centre," said Honda. "If it was saved, there was nothing I could do about it."

Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni, who joined Japan after the 2010 World Cup, said his attractive Blue Samurai side would "surprise the world" at next year's tournament in Brazil.

"I came to Japan to bring them to the World Cup -- that was my bottom line," said the Italian. "I feel relieved that I achieved it. We are going to improve further and surprise the world."

Holger Osieck's Australia meanwhile will be glad of the point away from home as they scrap with Jordan, Oman and Iraq for the second automatic qualifying spot. The third-placed team will go into a play-off.

Japan are now through to their fifth straight World Cup since making their debut in 1998, and with a high-quality side which will look to build on their run to the last 16 four years ago in South Africa.

Australia have two games left to make sure of reaching their third World Cup in a row. The Socceroos host Jordan next week followed by Iraq on June 18.