

David relishes Jose mind game

AFP, Sydney



New Manchester United manager David Moyes says he is looking forward to playing "mind games" with Jose Mourinho as Chelsea step up their interest in unsettled striker Wayne Rooney.

Amid reports that Mourinho's Chelsea are considering a 40 million pound (\$61 million) bid to land Rooney, the Premier League champions insist the England striker is not for sale as Moyes looks to make his mark after taking over from Alex Ferguson.

Moyes won his first match as United manager in the Red Devils' 5-1 victory over the Australian A-League All Stars in Sydney on Saturday but the main interest again centred on players not on the club's pre-season Asian tour.

Moyes remained tight-lipped after the match on the Rooney situation and the club's attempts to sign midfielder Cesc Fabregas from Barcelona.

"I have not had any more news since we last spoke (on Friday)," Moyes told a post-match press conference. "I have no more updates of anything really, so I cannot give you anything positive or negative."

Pressed further Moyes was asked by a

Scottish reporter about his readiness for a battle of mind games with the cagey Mourinho.

"It sounds like your accent is the same as mine, so you must be from Glasgow," Moyes said. "But if you're from Glasgow you quite enjoy those kind of things, so bring it on."

British newspapers reported after the Sydney match that United are prepared to increase their offer to lure former Arsenal playmaker Fabregas to Old Trafford.

Moyes, whose squad were due to fly to Tokyo on Sunday for the next leg of their pre-season tour, confirmed last week that a formal offer, in the region of 26 million pounds, had been lodged for Fabregas.

With United due to face Yokohama F. Marinos in Japan on Tuesday, Moyes said he was delighted with the form of Danny Welbeck and Jesse Lingard in the emphatic win over the A-League All Stars.

Welbeck and Lingard scored twice and Dutch ace Robin van Persie added the icing with United's fifth goal minutes from full-time after coming on as a second-half substitute.

"To get Robin back on and get him started was good, but I think it was impressive that Danny got a couple of goals. I said to him that on another night he might have scored four or five goals," Moyes said.

Record sixth for Wu

AFP, Barcelona



Favourites China lived up to their top billing Saturday as Wu Minxia claimed a record sixth gold medal in the 3m synchronised diving event at the world championships in Barcelona.

Olympic and world champion Wu partnered Shi Tingmao to the title as the pair piled up 338.40 points with Italy landing silver courtesy of 307.80 points for Tania Cagnotto and Francesca

Dellape.

Canadian pair Jennifer Abel and Pamela Ware took bronze with 292.08 points as the Chinese served up due warning they intend to emulate the 10 golds they managed in the 2011 championships back home in Shanghai.

For Wu it was a record sixth world 3m synchronised springboard title while the triumph was China's seventh on a roll in the event.

Wu and 1m springboard world title-holder Shi were far too strong

as they brushed off a bold challenge from recently crowned European champions Cagnotto and Dallape, who actually led after the opening round before the favourites underlined their topdog status at the Montjuic Municipal Pool.

In all, Wu now has amassed 13 world championships diving medals, seven of them golds.

"These are my seventh world championships, but this time I have a new partner," said Wu.

"This gold medal proves that

China's Shi Tingmao and Wu Minxia perform on their way to winning the women's 3-metre synchro springboard diving gold in the FINA World Championships in Barcelona on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Froome bound for glory

AFP, Paris



Kenyan-born cyclist Chris Froome was Sunday poised to succeed Bradley Wiggins as the Tour de France champion

to complete a remarkable double for Britain.

Froome, who finished runner-up in 2012 on his way to helping Sky teammate Wiggins make history as the first ever British winner of the world's most famous bike race, headed into Sunday's final stage with a 5min 03sec lead on Colombian sensation Nairo Quintana.

The final stage of the most prestigious event in cycling is traditionally not contested by the leaders in the race's overall standings, leaving Froome to toast victory on the world

famous Champs Elysees in Paris.

As the field set off from Versailles, Froome will be roared on several thousand miles away by the man who first initiated him into the sport.

Back in Kenya, David Kinjah, Froome's first cycling coach, saluted his one-time protege's progress.

For the last three weeks Kinjah has been following Froome in arguably the world's most gruelling sporting event after buying a satellite television package and recording every stage of the Tour.

Recalling how they trained together, mountain biking in the rural highlands north of Nairobi, Kinjah admitted he is delighted to see Froome produce such a dominant display on the sport's biggest stage.

"Even though we don't see each other so much any more he has lived my dreams. He is wearing the yellow

jersey every day and I almost felt like I was wearing it myself," Kinjah told BBC Radio Five Live's Sportsweek programme.

"He was like one of us, our brother. He was just funny and happy, a white boy who accepted our village and ate our food."

Kinjah also shed light on the famed Froome stamina.

"He would want to complete each and every training ride and he wouldn't stop. If he decided he wanted to complete the whole 100km he would do exactly that," he said.

"No matter how much pain or how many hours he went through he would keep riding to the end."

That ability has led to raised eyebrows in cycling circles with some speculating that Froome is just the latest in the long line of cyclists using banned substances.



Britain's Kenyan-born Christopher Froome is all set to win this year's Tour de France cycling race.

PHOTO: AFP

Heynckes's no to Barca job

AFP, Berlin



Treble-winning coach Jupp Heynckes has poured cold water on speculation linking him to the vacant Barcelona job as the ex-Bayern Munich boss insisted he is enjoying his retirement.

The 68-year-old steered Bayern to become the first German club to win the treble of Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup last season as the Bavarian giants swept aside all rivals.

Heynckes stepped down as Bayern coach following his history-making feat but has said he has no interest in replacing Tito Vilanova, who resigned as Barcelona coach on Friday.

"I think now it would be impossible to take on a new club after my time at Bayern Munich," Heynckes told Germany's Sky Sports News.

"I keep myself busy, I have hobbies, I do some sports, I have my pets and a huge garden to keep me occupied."

With Vilanova, 44, walking away from the Barca job to continue cancer treatment, a poll in the Spanish media put Heynckes top of the potential list of candidates.

But after a career spanning half a century as a player then coach, which saw Heynckes steer both Real Madrid and Bayern to Champions League victories, the German has said enough is enough.

"Who will be the coach? I don't know, I have nothing to do with it."

Meanwhile, it was learnt that former Barcelona B team coach Luis Enrique has emerged as the favourite to become the Catalan club's new first-team manager after Tito Vilanova's decision to step down, with Gerardo Martino, the coach of the Argentinian side Newell's Old Boy coach, also among those that have been contacted.

Luis Enrique became manager of Celta Vigo less than six weeks ago and Barcelona would be obliged to pay €3m (£2.6m) to release him.

WI 261-7

AFP, Saint Lucia

Marlon Samuels hit his fifth one-day hundred, pacing the West Indies to 261 for seven against Pakistan in the fourth ODI at the Beausejour Stadium on Sunday.

Early-morning rain delayed the start of play by over an hour and resulted in the match being reduced to 49 overs-per-side.

Scoreless for 60 of the 106 deliveries he faced in compiling a painstaking 46 in the tied thriller at the same venue on Friday, the experienced right-hander Samuels returned to something like his sumptuous best.

He stroked four sixes and nine fours off 104 balls in finishing on 106 not out to give the West Indies bowlers something to work with in pursuit of a 2-1 series lead ahead of the final match back at the Beausejour on Wednesday.

He put on 95 for the fifth wicket with Lendl Simmons who hit 46 off 44 balls before he played on to Saeed Ajmal.

West Indies made two significant decisions before a ball was bowled in replacing hard-hitting Kieron Pollard with Devon Smith and demoting Chris Gayle to number five in the batting order in light of his continuing struggle for runs against the new ball.

He was back in the middle at 63 for two after Smith fell cheaply to Mohammad Irfan and Johnson Charles (32) was trapped leg-before by Wahab Riaz, benefiting from a huge slice of luck almost instantly when put down by Mohammad Hafeez off Wahab before he had scored.

Although far from his destructive best, Gayle contributed 30 to a 57-run third-wicket stand with Samuels before failing to clear long-on off the bowling of Shahid Afridi.

KP out of this Test

AFP, London

England batsman Kevin Pietersen will play no further part in the second Test against Australia due to a left calf strain, a team spokeswoman said after Saturday's third day close.

Pietersen, who suffered the injury while fielding on Friday, would be re-assessed ahead of the third Test at Old Trafford starting on August 1. "Kevin Pietersen will not take the field for the remainder of the second Test after scans showed a left calf strain," the spokeswoman said.

Serena takes Swedish title

AFP, Bastad

World number one Serena Williams racked up her 51st win of the year on Sunday when she cruised past home player Johanna Larsson in the Swedish Open final.

Williams showed little mercy as she swept to a 6-4, 6-1 victory to take the 53rd WTA title of her career.

Larsson, 24, ranked 76th in the world, had no answer to the Williams arsenal and her third WTA final went the way of the previous two, ending in defeat.

French Open winner Williams, 31, was contesting her 69th final and is unbeaten on clay this season, having also won in Rome, Madrid and Charleston.

Young Nanjing ready for the Asian youth

ZAKARIA SIMON, back from Nanjing

The Second Asian Youth Games (AYG) this year will be held in Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu province in eastern China, after the inaugural edition was organised in Singapore in 2009. Four years ago, the hosts and the Olympic Council of Asia were forced to reduce the number of sports to nine because of time and resource constraints. But there is no such fear this time around as Nanjing has got the time it requires to be ready for such big international event.

The Chinese officials however prefer, although they have got enough time and 'can afford to spend lavishly', to organise these Games rather in an economical style. Compared to the 13.6 billion yuan China spent on the Guangzhou Asian Games in 2010,

a budget of only 1 billion yuan for the AYG is indeed meagre.

But, Yang Weize, the secretary of the Communist Party of China's Nanjing Municipal Committee and the executive chairman of the Games' organising committee, has his own points about the low-key budget.

"Keeping the expenses in control has been our primary objective," Yang told a group of journalists from 13 Asian countries at the Nanjing City Hall recently. "At the same time we aim to provide good service so as to make the Games sustainable."

He explained how the organisers were following the cost-cutting measures. "No new venues will be built if old ones can be renovated. No new facilities will be purchased if old ones can be repaired. No equipment will be bought if it can be rented, and they won't be rented if they can be borrowed."



Yang Weize, the executive chairman of the Nanjing Games' organising committee, briefs a group of Asian journalists on the 2nd Asian Youth Games recently.

PHOTO: CHINA DAILY

Yang informed that most of the Asian countries and regions had already confirmed their participation in the Games to be held over August 16-24. He said more than

3,600 athletes aged between 14 and 17 had registered for the event, which will feature 118 events in 15 sports.

But whatever amount Nanjing

spends on the AYG, the city intends that the joy of youthfulness prevails.

Yang said, "It is important that our teenagers and youngsters rise to the spirits of the Olympics. We hope that the spirit will influence them in the rest of their lives. We also hope they will showcase the rich culture and the development of the city of Nanjing after they go back home."

Although the Games' slogan is 'Celebrating Youth, Passionate Asia', the city has its own motto, "We grow, not only in sport but also in every other field". And when Nanjing was chosen as the hosts of the carnival of youth of Asia in November 2010 by China's central government, the decision only highlighted their government's recognition of Nanjing as the youthful city of the country as its youth population is higher than that of most other Chinese cities.