

## Berhalter finds home at Palace

**U.S. ABROAD.** After searching all fall and winter, American Gregg Berhalter has finally found a club.

The former North Carolina star, whose future on the U.S. national team was jeopardized by his failure to locate a team, debuted with English First Division club Crystal Palace in a 1-0 loss at Barnsley Feb. 20.

Despite causing the penalty that led to Barnsley's goal, Berhalter kept his spot in the lineup four days later for Palace's 1-0 loss at Sheffield United.

Crystal Palace manager Alan Smith needed cheap reinforcements for his leaky defense after Chinese star Fan Zhiyi was injured.

Berhalter, a free agent after Dutch club Cambuur was relegated last spring, fit the bill.

He had unsuccessful trials at several English clubs, including Premier League team Everton, before joining Palace.

His move to London forced U.S. national team coach Bruce Arena to scratch him for the USA-Mexico World Cup qualifier.

There had been speculation that Berhalter would rejoin former Tar Heel teammate Eddie Pope at D.C. United.

Berhalter left UNC after his junior year, in 1994, to sign with Dutch Second Division club Zwolle.

## Pachuca is forced to forfeit

**MEXICO.** Pachuca had to forfeit its match with Puebla when four players were sent off and another was injured, leaving it with one short of the required seven with 10 minutes left.

Pachuca was trailing, 4-1, when Raymundo Gonzalez collapsed and was carried off, leaving it with six players. Play cannot continue if one team is reduced to fewer than seven.

Former Mexican international Alberto Garcia Aspe scored all four Puebla goals after Cesario Victorino had given Pachuca a 21st-minute lead.

Pachuca's Omar Arellano, Francisco Ferreira, Adao Martinez and Pedro Pineda were all shown the red card.

## Spanish clubs complete sweep

**UEFA CUP.** Spain celebrated a historic week, sending all four representatives to the quarterfinals of the UEFA Cup.

Wins for UEFA newcomers Rayo Vallecano and Alaves were complemented by victories for Catalan power Barcelona and Celta.

With two all-Spanish quarterfinals—Alaves vs. Rayo and Barcelona vs. Celta — Spain is guaranteed two representatives in the last four.

The biggest surprise was Alaves, promoted only three seasons ago. It beat Inter Milan, 2-0, thanks to late goals by Jordi Cruyff and Ivan Tomic, to win, 5-3, on aggregate.

With American Kasey Keller on the bench, Rayo Vallecano completed its sweep of French club Bordeaux, winning 2-1, to advance, 6-2, on aggregate.

Barcelona (1-0 and 5-0) eliminated AEK Athens, and Celta 0-0 and 2-1) topped VfB Stuttgart.



Alaves defender Oscar Tellez (right) gave Inter Milan star Christian Vieri no room to operate.

## AROUND THE WORLD

### Magath tries to save Stuttgart

**GERMANY.** Four-time Bundesliga champion VfB Stuttgart has turned to Felix Magath in its bid to avoid relegation.

The former World Cup midfielder was named Stuttgart coach just 24 hours after Ralf Rangnick was fired following the club's exit from the UEFA Cup.

The 47-year-old Magath was dismissed as Eintracht Frankfurt coach earlier this winter after a string of poor results.

A 0-0 tie at last-place Bochum left Stuttgart in next-to-last place, four points in the relegation zone.

"This is a surprise because I had planned to stay away from soccer for some time," said Magath, "but Stuttgart, which belongs among the top Bundesliga clubs, in my opinion, managed to convince me."

He signed a contract through June 2002.



Pablo Thiam (right) and his Stuttgart teammates find themselves battling to avoid relegation.

### Terim-Cecchi Gori feud boils over

**ITALY.** Chaos reigned at Fiorentina, where Turk Fatih Terim quit as head coach after a shouting match with Fiorentina president Vittorio Cecchi Gori.

Terim, who guided Galatasaray to the UEFA Cup title in 2000, had announced in January he would leave at the end of the season—he's been rumored to be in line to replace Alberto Zaccheroni at AC Milan—but he quit after arguing with Cecchi Gori in the locker room following Fiorentina's 2-2 tie with Brescia.

Fiorentina director general Giancarlo Antognoni, one of the greatest players in the club's history, and Terim's entire coaching staff also resigned solidarity.

Fiorentina has not won a league match since Jan. 13, when it beat Milan, 4-0, and its fortunes turned for the worse when talks over an extension to Terim's one-year contract broke down. Prior to the breakdown in contract talks, Fiorentina had climbed to third in Serie after an excellent run of form.

But Cecchi Gori became furious when Terim declined to commit himself to a new deal and threatened to take legal action against the Turk, who has built up a strong rapport with Fiorentina's fans, who have dubbed him "The Emperor."

He took over Fiorentina in the wake of a double body-blow last summer.

Giovanni Trapattoni resigned to take over as Italy national team coach, and Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta ended a record-breaking nine-year stint to join Roma.

Fiorentina had former Italian star Roberto Mancini lined up to replace Terim.

Mancini had recently come out of retirement to play for English club Leicester City after assisting Sven Goran Eriksson at Lazio earlier this season.

Italian authorities were trying to block Mancini's move to Fiorentina because he remains on Lazio's books and lacks a coaching license.

## Etcheverry debuts against Boca

**LIBERTADORES CUP.** Bolivian club Oriente Petrolero lost to defending champion Boca Juniors, 2-1, in Buenos Aires, marking MLS star Marco Etcheverry's debut after joining the Santa Cruz club on loan from D.C. United.

With only four survivors from the team that beat Brazil's Palmeiras on penalties in last year's final — Colombians Oscar Cordoba and Jorge Bermudez and Argentines Anibal Ibarra and Roman Riquelme — Boca struggled in the opening game of its title defense.

Etcheverry and Milton Coimbra posed problems for Boca, which found difficult to break down a stubborn Oriente defense.

Omar Perez and Riquelme scored for Boca. Coimbra pulled a goal back for Oriente in the second half.

## Pua returns as national team coach

**URUGUAY.** Victor Pua is back as Uruguay's national team coach.

Pua, who led Uruguay to second place at the 1999 Copa America, replaces Argentine Daniel Passarella, who quit after complaining of interference from First Division club Nacional.

Passarella, who captained Argentina to the 1978 World Cup title and coached Argentina to the quarterfinals at France '98, had periodically threatened to quit, complaining of lack of support in his efforts to get his team together for training.

Pua earned his reputation after leading Uruguay to second place at the 1997 World Youth Championship.

Pua served as head coach of the senior team on an interim basis until Passarella's arrival after the '99 Copa America.

Malaysia '97 graduates Fabian Carini, Walter Coelho, Nicolas Olivera, Marcelo Zalayeta and Mario Regueiro were named to Pua's team, fifth in the South American World Cup qualifying group, for friendly matches in Europe against Slovenia and Italian club Juventus.

## Liberia's Lone Stars lead pack

**WORLD CUP QUALIFYING.** Liberia is the surprise leader of Africa's Group B after a 1-0 win over visiting Sierra Leone, its third straight after opening with a 2-0 loss at Sudan.

Zizi Roberts' second-half goal gave the Lone Stars nine points, three more than idle Nigeria and Sudan, which beat Ghana, 1-0, in Omdurman.

Ghana, the only major African team yet to qualify for the World Cup finals, is fourth with three points after losing its second straight game under new coach Jones Attaquayefio.

The Liberia-Sierra Leone match was played under heavy security in Paynesville following a complaint to FIFA from Sierra Leone, which wanted the match moved to a neutral venue for security reasons.

Relations between the West African neighbors have been strained since Sierra Leone accused Liberia of hosting rebel groups on its territory.

Liberia is run by star George Weah. Among the players he has enlisted for the Lone Star campaign is U.S.-bred forward Musa Shannon.



**Liberia is the surprise leader in Africa's Group B after consecutive wins over Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone.**