

What they're saying

"In probably every other country, the young player actually becomes more serious about the game. He'll do anything he can to improve and stay in the team. Here players think they can drink. Maybe they could once, but the game demands so much more now, not just physically, but mentally because of greater tactical awareness."

— Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier on the drinking culture that pervades English soccer. The crackdown by Houllier and fellow Frenchman Arsene Wenger on drinking at Arsenal has aided their clubs' recent successes.

"It is difficult to accept losing big games without saying to the referee, 'You can be wrong,' and ask him to question his decision."

— Wenger, whose team is first in the Premier League. He is calling for an introduction of television replays to aid referees. Refereeing controversies have dogged one of the most exciting English races in years.



STEPHANO RELLANDINI/REUTERS

Ronaldo (scoring for Inter Milan against Verona) hopes to play in three more World Cups for Brazil.

"I'm going to play in three World Cups so that my son can see the Phenomenon in action. In 2010, he'll be 10 years old."

— Brazilian star Ronaldo, who continues his comeback. He was a non-playing member of Brazil's 1994 World Cup team and starred on its '98 team that lost to France in the final after his mystery illness hours before the game.

"Cuisine is part of culture. You must not apply one standard to all countries in the world. The world we are living in is a place of variety and abundance."

— Li Bin, China's ambassador to South Korea, supporting Koreans, who have come under attack by FIFA for the practice of eating dog meat.