



## OFF THE POST

**HOOIGANS A LA CARTE.** Frequent fan field invasions threaten Steaua Nicolae Balcescu with expulsion from the Romanian Fourth Division, so club president Alexandra Cringus plans to ring its field with a crocodile-filled moat. "This is not a joke — we can get crocodiles easy enough and feed them on meat from the local abattoir," Cringus said. The BBC predicts Cringus' next problem will be an unusually high turnover of ballboys.

**TIME FOR A LONGER WINTER BREAK?** Weather, not wildlife, downed a ball boy during the Wasquehal-Monaco French Cup game in Villeneuve d'Ascq in early January. The match was delayed while emergency workers aided the young hypothermia victim.

**OUR OFFENSE SURE IS GOOD TODAY.** Stocksbridge Park Steels'goalie Richard Siddall remained alone on the fog-covered field for 10 minutes before a fan told him the English Unibond League game against Witton Albion had been abandoned at the 30-minute mark. "I just stood there waiting for a player to come through the mist," Siddall told the *Daily Star*.

**UPON FURTHER REVIEW.** A 12-year-old escaped the wrath of Florida prosecutors, who dropped charges of misdemeanor battery for his assault during recess soccer at Eagle Ridge Elementary School in Coral Springs. Chief Juvenile Prosecutor Maria Schneider said, "It wasn't an extreme act of violence and nobody got hurt." The boy, who collared and body-slammed his victim, said as he left court, "We were just playing soccer."

**NOT THE BEST MEDICINE?** "We always tried to be happy, but this didn't go down well," said Chilean U-20 striker Mauricio Pinilla after team members were fined for laughing at a lunchtime joke during the South American Championship. The serious Chilean coaches guided their squad to a somber first-round exit.

**STRIP OR TAKE A PAY CUT.** Players from Dunmanway Town of Ireland's West Cork League posed nude to help fund their promotion quest. "A few dropped out of the full-monty photo and are possibly regretting the decision since the calendar is going down a bomb in local pubs," the club's John Buckley told the *Irish Examiner*.

- MikeWoitalla