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RECAP OF REGIONALS

Erik Cabrera

The Chargers do it again! On Wednesday, October 26th the St. Joes Chargers pull through a difficult win against Riverside Brookfield Bulldogs. Freshmen, Toni Orozco scored our first goal in the first couple of minutes of the match. The game continued to be intense for the rest of the half with close shots at each goal, but in the end the score remained 1-0. In the second half, the Bulldogs answered back with their very own goal tying the score 1-1. No more goals after that, let the Golden Goal begin. In a total of 3 hard fought overtimes with pushes, shoves, and head bunts, Charger number 7, Ruben Estrada, was awarded a penalty. This game seemed over with, but let's all remember the pressure in the kicker; his team's faith in his hands, his school watching waiting for him to save them from a loss. All this pressure leads this penalty to be a complete miss, so we're off



to the 4th overtime. Close to the end of this overtime, Ruben, made up for him missed penalty by delivering an extraordinary shot to the right side of the goal, thus, leading his team to the Section Championship! With all the excitement, the St. Joes fans jumped off their seat and off the ledge of the bleachers to rush into the field and congratulate our victorious Chargers.

The luck didn't last for long for the Chargers. On Friday, October 28th the Chargers played St. Francis in the Section Championship game. Since the start, you could see the high skill leveled matchup between these two teams. But there has to be one winner and unfortunately, it was St. Francis with a win of 2-0. Tears where wept as the Senior Chargers walked off the field knowing this will be their last game as a Charger and this will probably be the last time playing with their brothers since they will all be going their separate ways after graduation. It was a great season for them, and a memorable one as well. We're proud of you guys.



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CHICHARITO SIGNS WITH MAN UNITED UNTIL 2016



Javier Hernandez has signed a new contract with Manchester United, tying the Mexico striker to the Premier League side until the end of the 2015-16 season. Initially signed by United as a long-term prospect, the 23-year-old Hernandez has scored 23 goals in 55 appearances since moving from Chivas in July 2010. "Chicharito" helped United win a record 19th English league title and reach the Champions League final, earning a regular starting berth and praise from manager Alex Ferguson. Ferguson says "the last player I remember making an impact as big and as quickly as Javier is Ole Gunnar Solskjaer ... His talent for creating space in the box and his finishing ability mark him out as a natural goal scorer."

ERIKSSON FIRED BY ENGLISH SIDE LEICESTER

-Sven-Goran Eriksson was fired as manager of second-tier club Leicester on Monday after just over a year in charge. The former England manager took over in October 2010, two months after the club was taken over by a Thai-based consortium.

Eriksson spent heavily in the offseason in an attempt to fulfil the new owners' goal of returning to the Premier League but the Swedish coach leaves with the team languishing in 13th place in the League Championship.

Saturday's 3-0 home defeat by Millwall was the team's fourth loss in 13 games.

A statement on the Leicester website thanked Eriksson for his contribution and said the club will begin searching for a new manager in the coming days.

The 63-year-old Eriksson managed Lazio and Benfica before leading England from 2001-06. Since then, he has also managed English club Manchester City as well as Mexico's national team.



\$1.85 BILLION IN WORLD CUP TV DEALS

FIFA says it completed broadcast deals worth \$1.85 billion last week for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

The deals include an estimated \$1.2 billion from United States broadcast right sales to Fox, Telemundo and Futbol de Primera Radio.

FIFA says it also sold rights to SBS in Australia, Bell Media in Canada and IMC across the Caribbean.

FIFA also choose Swiss-based agency Infront Sports & Media to handle sales across Asian territories, including China and India.

In March, FIFA said a first wave of 2018-2022 sales raised \$1.7 billion from the Middle East and parts of Asia and Latin America.

FIFA made \$2.4 billion in broadcast sales worldwide for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.



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TWELLMAN: REVOLUTION IGNORED MY CONCUSSIONS



Soccer team ignored his symptoms of multiple concussions, even sending him back on the field after he said "I have a concussion" following the hit that eventually forced him to retire.

The keynote speaker at a conference on brain trauma, Twellman said the trainer instead asked him his name, the score of the game and to count backward from 100 before telling him he doesn't have a concussion and sending him back into the game.

"It's horrifying," said Chris Nowinski, a founder of the Sports Legacy Institute, which raises public awareness of head injuries.

Revolution spokeswoman Lizz Summers said the team had no comment.

"I'm appalled. I'm angry," said Nowinski, a former Harvard football player and professional wrestler who retired after a series of concussions. "I thought I had it bad with my concussions, but at least people were trying. ... My God! For him to say he had a concussion and be told that he doesn't because he could count backward from 100 is absurd."

A five-time MLS All-Star who was the league MVP in 2005, Twellman scored 101 goals in eight years and also had six goals in 30 appearances with the U.S. national team. He said he has been diagnosed with five concussions, so he knew he'd sustained one in 2008 when he went for the ball and was punched in the head by Los Angeles Galaxy goalkeeper Steve Cronin.

But the team's trainer cleared him to return after a cursory exam. Later, Twellman said, he took a shot that was 10 feet wide of the net and began celebrating because he thought he had scored a goal.

He was seeing double.

"For a professional sports trainer to be blowing off these symptoms was despicable," Nowinski said. "It feels like a violation of their ethics. I hope he's considering suing."

Dr. Robert Cantu, a neurosurgeon who is co-director of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy at Boston University's School of Medicine, would not comment on the quality of Twellman's treatment. He said Major League Soccer - like most leagues - has improved its handling of concussions since 2008.

"There's a lot more known about the management of concussions in 2011 than in 2008," Cantu said.

Twellman noted that he was injured during a home game in Foxborough, just down the road from where Cantu is researching brain trauma. He saw a half-dozen other neurologists before his concussions were properly diagnosed.

"If the star player in MLS is 18.5 miles away from the top concussion doctor and doesn't see him for 19 months, there's a problem," Twellman said. "Imagine if there's a kid in Billings, Montana."

Speaking to a crowd of several hundred people at the conference sponsored by the BU medical school, many of them doctors and athletic trainers there to learn about managing concussions, Twellman said he spent nine months in a dark room, unable to watch TV or walk his dog, and was nauseous every day for two years.

"I was completely helpless," he said, "and when I say 'completely helpless,' I mean you can't look at your cellphone without seeing three of them."

Doctors told him he had everything from diabetes to the flu to "post situational depression" - ostensibly because he was upset the team had refused a \$2.5 million transfer offer from a team in England. He saw seven different neurologists in all, tried acupuncture, and took antidepressants but said they only made him feel worse.

He played in only 16 games in 2008 and only two the next season; as late as 2009 the team was listing him with a neck injury. He said he got himself ready for his final game, on June 7, 2009, by taking four Vicodin, three Excedrin and "shot-gunning a Budweiser"; he entered as a second-half substitute because he could only manage to play for 45 minutes at a time and scored two goals.

His teammates wondered why he did not celebrate.

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NIGERIA FIRES SIASIA AFTER AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS FAILURE

The Nigeria Football Federation says coach Samson Siasia has been fired after the national team failed to qualify for the African Cup of Nations. The federation issued a statement Friday saying that Siasia and the rest of his coaching team were “promptly dispensed” over their failure. The federation said it hoped to have a new coach named by Wednesday. Federation officials and Siasia did not answer calls for comment Friday night. Siasia’s team drew with Guinea in the final round of qualifiers to miss out on the tournament, leading the NFF to demand an explanation for what it called “the embarrassment brought to the nation.” Siasia apologized for the failure but has also faced strong criticism.



VIDIC RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL DUTY WITH SERBIA



Manchester United defender Nemanja Vidic has confirmed his retirement from international duty following Serbia’s failure to reach the 2012 European Championship. The last of Vidic’s 56 appearances for his national team came against Slovenia this month, when he missed a penalty in a 1-0 defeat that cost Serbia a place in the playoffs. The 30-year-old Vidic tells United’s website, “I feel, after 10 years of playing for my country, it is the right time for me to stand aside and allow the younger players to come through.” Inter Milan midfielder Dejan Stankovic also said after the Slovenia defeat that he would no longer be available for Serbia.

FORMER GERMAN INTERNATIONAL FRINGS ENJOYS MLS ADVENTURE

Whether playing on a rugged pitch surrounded by armed guards in Nicaragua or Mexico City’s altitude, former Werder Bremen captain Torsten Frings said on Friday he was enjoying his first season in the North American Major League Soccer. The 34-year-old midfielder, who won 79 caps for Germany and scored 10 goals, left Bremen in the close season to join Toronto FC in Canada. “The level is obviously not as high as in the Bundesliga but it is not as bad as it is always made out to be. Everything is extremely professional. Especially in our club,” Frings told his former club website (www.werder.de) during a visit on Friday. “The problem is getting the top players into the league. That is because of the salary cap. That makes salaries low compared to European leagues.” Frings, who joined former Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann at Toronto, where he is a consultant, said he had also enjoyed playing in the North American Champions League in places such as Mexico and Nicaragua. “Altitude was a real problem. You don’t really understand it unless you experience it. We lost that game 4-0 as the Mexicans were running around like rabbits and we looked like 80-year-old men,” he said. “Or when we played in Nicaragua. It was great. The grass was knee-high on the pitch. We were accompanied on to the pitch by men with machine guns to make sure it is safe to get it.”



An advertisement for Real Madrid jerseys. It features a soccer player in a white Real Madrid kit (number 7, Ronaldo) kicking a ball. The text on the left reads: "New 2011 - 2012 Realmadrid in stock hero jerseys available". On the right is the Chicago Soccer logo, which is a shield with a blue and white design, stars, and the year 1994.

GATTUSO UNSURE OF FUTURE DUE TO EYE PROBLEM

AC Milan's combative midfielder Gennaro Gattuso is hoping he'll eventually be able to play football again as he battles a nerve problem affecting his left eye. Gattuso hasn't played since colliding with teammate Alessandro Nesta during the Serie A opener Sept. 9. He has been advised by specialists to wait another two to six months before deciding whether to undergo surgery. Gattuso said that he can't drive his children to school and that he sees double when he takes off a thick pair of eyeglasses. "But I'm able to work out physically with continuity. I'm doing big workouts and that's giving me the strength to not give up," the 33-year-old Gattuso said. "Right now the most important thing for me is getting back to being a normal person in everyday life. "It's going to take more than this to knock me down," he added. One of the key members of the Italy squad that won the 2006 World Cup, Gattuso retired from the national team after the Azzurri were eliminated in the first round of last year's tournament in South Africa.



LUIS ENRIQUE TO FORGIVE TASSOTTI FOR BROKEN NOSE

Roma coach Luis Enrique is set to forgive Mauro Tassotti 17 years after the former Italy international broke his nose. Tassotti, now an assistant coach at AC Milan, elbowed Luis Enrique in Italy's 1994 World Cup quarterfinal victory over Spain. However, ahead of Milan's crunch clash at Rome, Luis Enrique insists it is all in the past, saying "I know that he is sorry for what he did and I'll shake his hand." Luis Enrique reportedly lost a pint of blood in the incident and Tassotti was subsequently banned for eight matches by FIFA.



SOUTH AFRICA ANNOUNCES IVORY COAST FRIENDLY

Still smarting from its failure to qualify for the African Cup of Nations, South Africa will play Ivory Coast next month in its annual Nelson Mandela Challenge friendly. South African Football Association chief executive Robin Peterson said on Thursday Bafana Bafana will face a "very, very strong" Ivory Coast after the top-ranked African team named Chelsea pair Didier Drogba and Salomon Kalou, Manchester City's Yaya and Kolo Toure and Arsenal's Gervinho in a 21-man squad for the Nov. 12 game. SAFA vice president Mweliso Nonkonyana added he hoped the game would help South Africans "wipe the tears" from their eyes after failing to reach next year's African Cup. The Challenge will be played at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Port Elizabeth.



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BRADLEY'S CHALLENGE TO REVIVE AFRICA'S 'MONSTER'

Bob Bradley isn't interested in talking about the man who replaced him as the United States' coach, not now that he has the daunting challenge of reviving the hopes of the "monster" of African football.

Having been let go by the USSF in July after five years in charge - and replaced by Jurgen Klinsmann - the 53-year-old Bradley has re-emerged as head coach of Egypt and is faced with what he calls "the big responsibility."

The task ahead is to lead Africa's most successful team ever and follow in the footsteps of its best ever coach, all at a time of historic change in the North African country on and off the pitch. "Leaving as coach of the U.S. national team wasn't my decision," Bradley said in an interview with The Associated Press this week. But he made it clear that he has now moved on, and that his mind is set on restoring Egypt's status in the game. Against the backdrop of the revolution that swept former president Hosni Mubarak from power, the Egyptian national team had one of its worst ever failures this year.

The three-time defending African Cup of Nations champion and record seven-time winner of the continental championship, Egypt didn't even qualify for next year's tournament - for the first time in 34 years.

The respected tactician Hassan Shehata, who led the Pharaohs to those three successive titles, was forced out as coach and Bradley - an American who had never coached outside of the United States - was handed the task of returning Egypt to the top of African football.

After the dismal failure of an aging squad, Bradley also must develop a new generation of players to make Egypt, in his words, "the monster of Africa" again. "It does not put me under pressure," Bradley told the AP in Cairo. "Hassan Shehata is a very good coach. He had big achievements with the Egyptian national team and we can say he made history. His performance was excellent and it makes me proud to be here with this team."

Bradley's new job is about restoring national pride, such is the unchallenged status of football as the No. 1 sport in Egypt and its link with the country's people.

"As an American I saw on TV and read about the January revolution and I respect what the Egyptians have done for what they believe. And when you are a coach of a national team your team must be connected to the people.

"Players must know when they wear the national team jersey that they are playing for millions of people who love the team of this country." Bradley doesn't yet know the culture, the language, the league, or many of the players. And his first game as coach is a friendly against five-time world champion Brazil next month, before he begins the work of attempting to qualify Egypt for the World Cup for the first time since 1990.

He may not yet know his best midfield combination, or how to shout instructions to his players in Arabic, but he has learnt a little. The fish in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria is "so good," he said, and he already likes falafel sandwiches - an Egyptian favorite.

He said he's also looking forward to visiting the ancient cities of Luxor and Aswan down in the south now that he has settled into a hotel apartment in Cairo. His wife is set to join him this week.

"I try to listen and learn about everything, not only football and sports," he said, "and it's very exciting for me to be part of this life every day."

More than anything, he's learnt that like the famous pyramids, which loom over his new home city, so football dominates the sporting landscape in Egypt in a way it doesn't in the U.S.

"Regarding not qualifying to the World Cup since 1990, everywhere I go, everyone I meet and who talks with me speaks about the World Cup dream. So, it's a big responsibility.

"I'm learning every day. In my situation now I meet different people every day and I listen to them. The situation now is very different to when I took the role as coach of the United States. I was familiar with everything, the players and the league. Now when I'm here in Egypt I must be a good student and learn from the people around me." Bradley was dismissed having led the U.S. to the 2009 Confederations Cup final - beating European champion Spain on the way - and to the last 16 of the World Cup in 2010. His last match was the 4-2 Gold Cup final defeat to Mexico in June. He was succeeded by former German international Klinsmann, who has been welcomed as a refreshing change by some who said the squad and the style had become stale under Bradley.

"When you coach a national team, the judgment should be on your input with the team and the record and the results, and I think my results were good," Bradley said.

Three months down the line, and on the other side of the world, Bradley's not bitter about his exit. Just a little sore, maybe. A little tender. "I'm now the coach of the Egyptian national team," he replied, after being pushed on his thoughts surrounding his dismissal and his successor. "I'm not going to speak about Klinsmann now, give him time. I'm very proud of what we achieved in the last five years when I was the coach of the United States. "The Gold Cup final was a good match. We worked very hard in the Gold Cup to reach the final and we gave everything against Mexico. They made a few plays and won. This is football."

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FIFA panels want to reduce red cards

A FIFA panel proposed Tuesday that referees be more lenient with players who foul in the penalty area.

The FIFA Task Force Football 2014 led by Franz Beckenbauer agreed that the so-called "triple punishment" of penalty, red card and suspension is too severe.

"A penalty is enough if it is a simple foul or a tackle where you try to get the ball but you are a second late," said Beckenbauer, a World Cup-winning player and coach with West Germany.

"If you have a violent foul, if it would have been a red card anywhere on the field, then it's a penalty and a red card." Red cards would still be given for handball offenses that stop a certain goal, under the 20-member panel's proposal.

FIFA's head of refereeing, Massimo Busacca, said the proposal would have stopped him sending off South Africa's goalkeeper in a 2010 World Cup match against Uruguay.

Busacca was required to dismiss Itumeleng Khune for bringing down Luis Suarez despite only slight contact. South Africa lost 3-0 and Khune missed the final group-stage match against France.

"This is one of the changes we would want to see, when the goalkeeper challenges but finds the (forward's) legs," said Busacca, who is part of the expert panel.

FIFA will present a new draft to its rules-making panel, known as the International Football Association Board (IFAB), which has previously upheld the triple sanction when defenders and goalkeepers deny attackers a goal-scoring opportunity. It will meet March 3 in England and can approve the changes that would take effect in July.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter created the task force to suggest ways of improving soccer before the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. On Tuesday, the panel debated giving more clarity to the offside law relating to players who are not actively involved in an attacking move.

Busacca said he routinely advised referees and assistants to let play unfold before judging whether players in an offside position were "active or passive." "I don't think we could find better words," the Swiss two-time World Cup referee said. The task force, which included former World Cup winners Cafu of Brazil and Christian Karembeu of France, agreed to discuss the offside rule at its next scheduled meeting in December.

They also backed a previous IFAB decision that coaches should not use gadgets and technology aids in the dugout. The panel discussed the possibility of temporary substitutions that could help injured players be treated more effectively during matches.

Jiri Dvorak, FIFA's chief medical officer, said there was talk about setting minimum standards for treating bleeding injuries and possible concussions.

The panel wants portable defibrillators to be available at all international matches run by FIFA and its six continental confederations.

"The number one priority is proper treatment of players," Dvorak said.

FIFA also is monitoring "abuse" of anti-inflammatory drugs and food supplements by players at Under-17 tournaments.



Slovenia splits with national coach Kek

Slovenia is looking for a new national soccer coach after failing to qualify for the 2012 European Championship.

The contract of coach Matjaz Kek was terminated by "mutual agreement," the country's soccer federation said Monday.

Kek became the national coach in



2007

and took

Slovenia to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. But the nation trailed Italy, Estonia and Serbia in its qualifying group for Euro 2012.

The Slovenian federation said "without a doubt Matjaz Kek has been a good general manager and achieved excellent results with the national team."

Slovenia next plays Nov. 15, facing the U.S. in an exhibition game in Ljubljana that is a rematch of their meeting in the first round of last year's World Cup. The U.S. rallied from a two-goal deficit for a 2-2 tie in Johannesburg behind goals from Landon Donovan and Michael Bradley.

Next month's game will be part of a two-match European trip for the U.S. that starts Nov. 11 against France.

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SOLO, WAMBACH UP FOR WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR

United States goalkeeper Hope Solo and forward Abby Wambach were nominated on Tuesday for the 2011 FIFA Women's World Player of the Year award, competing with five-time winner Marta of Brazil.

Japan, the 2011 Women's World Cup winner, has Homare Sawa, the player of the tournament and top scorer in Germany, and Aya Miyama on the shortlist of 10 candidates.

U.S. forward Alex Morgan is the third member of the World Cup runner-up team to be nominated. France playmaker Louisa Necib also made the list chosen by FIFA officials and journalists selected by France Football magazine.

Marta, who helped the Western New York Flash win the Women's Professional Soccer title last season, is seeking to win the FIFA award for a sixth straight year. She is the only player selected from the Brazil squad eliminated by the U.S. in the World Cup quarterfinals.

Japan coach Norio Sasaki and the U.S. team's Swedish coach Pia Sundhage are among 10 candidates for the best coach of a women's team in 2011. Sasaki is one of seven men on the list.

Award organizers FIFA and France Football magazine will reveal the final three candidates on Dec. 5.

FIFA will announce the 10-candidate lists next Tuesday for the men's Golden Ball and best coach awards

The winners will be announced Jan. 9 at the FIFA Gala in Zurich.

Voting is by national team coaches and captains plus selected journalists.



TERRY DENIES MAKING RACIAL SLUR IN DERBY MATCH

Chelsea captain John Terry has dismissed claims he directed a racial slur at Queens Park Rangers defender Anton Ferdinand during a Premier League, insisting Sunday "it was all a misunderstanding."

Video footage appeared on the internet after Chelsea's 1-0 defeat by QPR in the west London derby at Loftus Road, with some claiming it showed Terry making a racist comment toward Ferdinand.

The England captain attempted to defuse the situation by releasing a statement, saying "people have leapt to the wrong conclusions about the context of what I was seen to be saying."

"I thought Anton was accusing me of using a racist slur against him. I responded aggressively, saying that I never used that term," Terry said in the statement, released to Britain's Press Association.

"I would never say such a thing, and I'm saddened that people would think so."

The 30-year-old Terry said Ferdinand hasn't accused him of racial abuse.

"I have known Anton for a long time and spoke to him about it after the game and there was no problem between us," Terry said. "I congratulated him on their win. He has not accused me of any wrongful remark.

"It was clear it was all a misunderstanding at the time."

Two Chelsea players - Jose Bosingwa and Didier Drogba - were sent off in a fiery match between the London rivals.

Terry was one of seven Chelsea players to be booked in a game, while he squared up to QPR goalkeeper Paddy Kenny in a heated confrontation just before the final whistle.

The Football Association is currently investigating claims by Manchester United defender Patrice Evra that he was racially abused by Liverpool striker Luis Suarez during the league match between the two northwest teams last weekend.



8 POLICE INJURED IN FOOTBALL CLASHES IN FRANKFURT

Police say eight officers were injured in clashes with football fans before the German Cup match between Eintracht Frankfurt and Kaiserslautern.

The two clubs have a long history of animosity between their fans. Clashes between rival groups apparently left more people injured but police had no figures.

Police say they were attacked with stones, bottles and firecrackers and responded with batons. Eight people were arrested. One woman was seriously injured when she fell onto railway tracks. Second-division Eintracht lost 1-0 in extra time on Wednesday.



FORMER CZECHOSLOVAKIA STRIKER KUKLETA DIES AT 46



Soccer club Zbrojovka Brno says former Czechoslovakia striker Roman Kukleta has died. He was 46.

His former club said Kukleta unexpectedly died Wednesday in Brno, about 125 miles southeast of Prague. The cause of the death was not immediately announced.

Kukleta played for Brno in the Czech second division, scoring 66 goals in three seasons in the 1980s. He moved to Sparta Prague in 1988 and scored a total of 58 goals in the top flight.

In the 1990-91 season, he was the league's top scorer with 17 goals. He played for Spanish team Real Betis between 1992-93, scoring six goals in 28 matches.

Kukleta played four matches for Czechoslovakia, all in 1991.

PARKING LOT FIGHT VICTIM CLEARED OF RACIAL SLURS



The Swiss Football League says a Servette defender who was attacked in a stadium parking lot by an opponent over alleged racial slurs will not face further punishment.

The league's disciplinary panel decided not to sanction Vincent Ruefli after he clashed with Lausanne Sports forward Matt Moussilou, who is black.

Moussilou, a Congo international, punched Ruefli in the face after demanding an explanation for alleged slurs about his race and family during the Aug. 6 match.

Moussilou previously lost his appeal against a four-match ban.

WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL SOCCER TERMINATES FRANCHISE

Women's Professional Soccer has terminated its South Florida franchise after clashing with the owner all season. The 3-year-old league announced Thursday that its Board of Governors had voted two days earlier to terminate magicJack, one of its six teams this past season. The magicJack (10-8-2) featured Abby Wambach, Hope Solo and several members of the U.S. team that played in the World Cup this summer.

In May, the club was docked a point in the standings and a draft pick for not meeting league standards.

In August, after owner Dan Borislow filed suit against the WPS in Florida court, the league released a statement accusing him of violations ranging from "unprofessional and disparaging treatment of his players to failure to pay his bills."

The WPS claimed that "Mr. Borislow's actions have been calculated to tarnish the reputation of the league and damage the league's business relationships."

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FABREGAS: I'M NO SAINT, BUT I'M NO RACIST EITHER

Barcelona midfielder Cesc Fabregas has admitted he is no saint but denied directing any racist abuse toward Sevilla's Frederic Kanoute during a heated encounter on Saturday.

Kanoute and Fabregas were involved in an altercation at the close of the 0-0 draw which saw Kanoute sent off and Fabregas facing accusations he racially insulted the Mali striker.

Fabregas immediately denied the reports on Twitter and returned to the subject on Wednesday.

"I've never worried about it, I know what I said," the Spain international said. "I spoke with Kanoute and we said what we had to say.

"Like every other football player, I'm no saint, but I never said anything racist and no one is saying any different."

Kanoute and Fabregas exchanged words after

Kanoute had kicked the ball off the spot with Lionel Messi readying to take an added-time penalty. Sevilla goalkeeper Javi Varas saved Messi's effort after the delay to preserve the draw at the Camp Nou.

In England, police are investigating Chelsea's John Terry following allegations he racially abused Queens Park Rangers defender Anton Ferdinand during a match.



EMERSON LEAO TO COACH SAO PAULO

Sao Paulo says it has hired Emerson Leao for a second spell in charge of the club.

Leao replaces Adilsson Batista, who was fired after the club's six-match winless run in the Brazilian national championship. The former goalkeeper returns to Sao Paulo after leading the club as coach to the Brazilian title in the 2004-2005 season. He was also the national team's coach briefly. Leao played for Brazil at the 1978 World Cup.

The club says on its website that Leao has signed a contract until the end of the current season.

Sao Paulo is sixth in the 20-team competition, eight points behind leader Vasco da Gama.

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