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#2 Chris Brisson



Height: 5'9" Weight: 165 lbs
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 Place of Birth: Hugo, MN
 Place of Residence: Chicago, IL
 High School: White Bear Lake H.S.
 College: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
 Youth Club: Tsunami Gold

Coach for Youth Team: Planfield Legends
 Former Teams: Rockford Rampage, Chicago Storm, Minnesota Thunder

Hobbies: Reading, guitar, listening to music, movies

Favorite Meal: Steak and cheesy potatoes

Favorite Movie: Waynes World, Dumb and Dumber

Hot Dog Toppings: Mustard, ketchup, relish

From the Fans

If you could have anyone play on your team, who would it be and why?

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Statistics

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Career	84	1	17		18	15	52	53



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Brazil federation, referee fined \$96 million for fixing 11 matches in '05



The Brazilian soccer federation and a former referee are being fined \$96 million for a match-fixing scandal in the 2005 domestic league.

A civil court has ruled that the federation and Edilson Pereira de Carvalho must share the fine for the scandal that forced 11 matches

to be replayed after the referee confessed to accepting bribes from gamblers to ensure the outcomes of games. Corinthians eventually won matches that it had lost and clinched the title.

It was not clear how the fine would be divided.

The Brazilian federation told the Ig Web site it would appeal the court's decision.

Carvalho and his lawyer could not be contacted by The Associated Press on Sunday. The ruling was made based on a law that protects consumers' rights.

Rajevac takes Qatar post through 2014 World Cup

Qatar has hired Milovan Rajevac of Serbia to coach its national team after Frenchman Bruno Metsu was fired following the squad's quarterfinal exit at the Asian Cup last month.

The 54-year-old Rajevac will take over March 1 and has signed a contract through

the 2014 World Cup. Rajevac coached Ghana until 2010 and most recently was in charge of Saudi Arabian club Al Ahli.

He said Sunday his immediate goal was qualifying for the next World Cup and the 2015 Asian Cup.

The choice of Rajevac may disap-

point some Qatari fans who were looking for a bigger name to help rebuild the team before the 2022 World Cup, which the tiny Gulf nation will host. Currently, the team is ranked 90th in the world.



Bulgarian football fans clash with police



Police say several people have been injured in overnight clashes between football fans and police after the Sofia derby between archrivals CSKA and Levski.

Sofia police chief Valeri Yordanov said Sunday that 16 police officers were among

those injured. Several buses and trolleys have been damaged and many shop and car windows smashed.

Riot police had stormed the Georgi Asparuhov Stadium at halftime of the derby and forced 3,500 CSKA fans to leave after crowd trouble had marred the

game. CSKA won 3-1. Sofia deputy mayor Ivan Sotirov said 27 fans had been detained for hooliganism. He added that city officials were considering scheduling all future football games in daylight to reduce violence.

Ashley Cole facing discipline

Chelsea will take "appropriate action" after defender Ashley Cole reportedly shot an intern with an air gun by accident at the team's training facility.

The News of the World reported Sunday that the English player was playing around with a .22 air gun he had brought into the locker room seven days ago and hadn't realized it was loaded.

The Sunday tabloid said sports sciences student Tom Cowan, who is on a one-year work placement at Chelsea, was hit

in the side by a lead pellet in the Surrey town of Cobham, south of London.

"We have fully investigated the incident and we are taking appropriate action. We will not be commenting further as it is an internal matter," Chelsea said in a statement. Chelsea's medical staff reportedly treated the bleeding wound to the 21-year-old Cowan, who did not require hospital treatment. The type of air gun involved in the incident doesn't require a license in Britain and Surrey Police weren't

involved. Police said Sunday they would study print editions of the newspaper before deciding whether to launch an investigation. The 30-year-old Cole is the England national team's most-capped fullback, having made his 87th appearance in last month's friendly against Denmark.



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Van der Meyde calls it a day

Former Inter Milan and Everton midfielder Andy van der Meyde has announced his retirement from football at the age of 31.

Van der Meyde, who made 18 appearances for Netherlands and scored one international goal, started his career with Ajax, before spells with FC Twente, Inter, Everton and then PSV Eindhoven.

He endured a miserable spell at Everton, making just 20 appearances during his four-year stay and he confirmed his retirement in a low-key manner.

"I quit," he said. "I do not need to give an interview."



Ferguson dismisses Terry remarks



Sir Alex Ferguson has dismissed John Terry's suggestion Manchester United could crack under the pressure of the title race.

Reigning champions Chelsea are currently fifth in the Premier League, 12 points behind United, but they will have the chance to reduce the deficit when the teams meet at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday.

Terry admitted that Chelsea have only a "really small" chance of retaining the title but said "a little bit of pressure" could see United lose their grip at the top of the table.

Having become renowned as a master of mind games during his 25 years at Old Trafford, though, Ferguson has given the comments short shrift.

"You try things," he said. "We all try things, but it won't be easy to come back from that kind of points deficit.

"I said some time ago the team that is most consistent would win the league. That is why I stress that we have to keep our momentum going and get that consistency."

Before heading to Chelsea, United will be looking to take maximum points for a trip to relegation-threatened Wigan.

"It'll be a difficult game," Ferguson said. "Wigan are a team who play fantastic football, but this time of season they're all difficult."

He added: "The new pitch [at the DW Stadium] improves the quality of the game, there is no question about that.

"I believe it was very bad before but that they have done something about it is more in their interests than ours.

"If they thought it would help them to play us on a bad pitch, they would have left it, but they play in a particular way, where passing is important."



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Panathinaikos striker Cisse sues Olympiakos chief

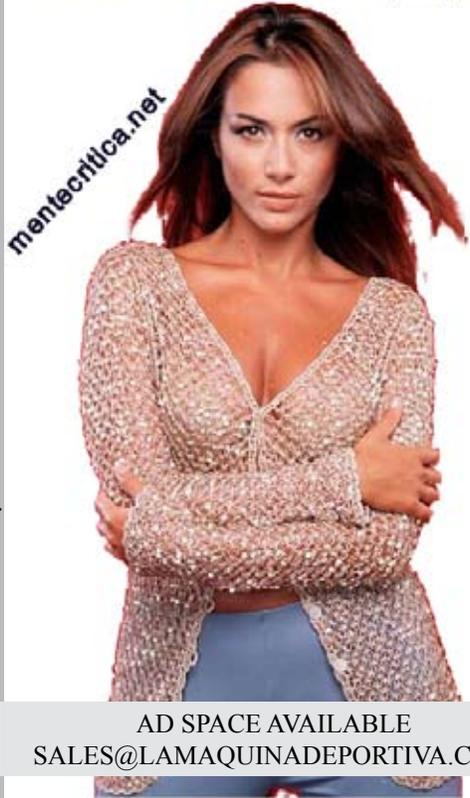
Panathinaikos striker Djibril Cisse has filed a lawsuit against the chairman of Greek league leader Olympiakos following violence at a match last weekend.

The French forward on Friday accused chairman Vangelis Marinakis of publicly insulting him after the match and failing to stop Olympiakos fans running on to the pitch and assaulting his teammates.

Olympiakos beat Panathinaikos 2-1 in the Feb. 19 game, extending its lead to 10 points, but was later fined ?140,000 (\$192,500) and ordered to play one match without fans because of the violence.

Fearing renewed violence, fans have been banned from the March 6 Greek Basketball Cup final between Panathinaikos and Olympiakos, when the venue will only be open to school children.

Se la fanno ministro non si può più dire



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Manager Steve Bruce signs new deal at Sunderland

Sunderland manager Steve Bruce has signed a new contract with the Premier League club, keeping him at the Stadium of Light until 2014.

The former Manchester United defender, who joined the north-east club in June 2009, has guided the team to seventh place in the table with a third of the season remaining.

Sunderland hasn't finished in the top half in England's first division for 10 years.

Sunderland chairman Niall Quinn says Bruce "has reshaped our squad beyond recognition" in his 18 months at the club.

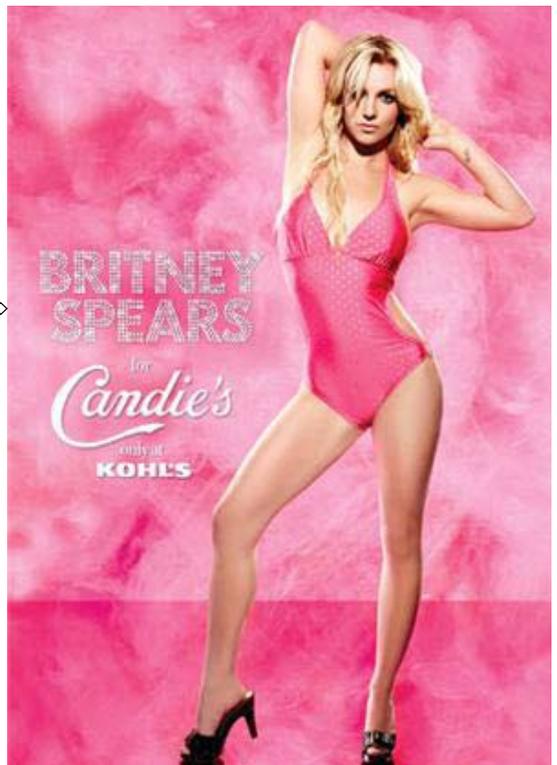
The 50-year-old Bruce says Sunderland "has the makings of a fantastic young team."

MLS sets expanded playoffs format

The top three teams in each of Major League Soccer's two conference will be joined in the playoffs this fall by the next four teams with the highest point totals. The playoffs expand by two teams this year to 10 with the league increasing to 18 teams with the addition of the Portland Timbers and Vancouver Whitecaps. Last year, the playoffs include the two conference champions and the next six teams.

The playoff expansion was announced last fall, with the format announced Wednesday.

The four teams not guaranteed automatic berths from their conference will play one-match knockout games hosted by higher seeds. The winners advance to the home-and-home, total-goals conference semifinals. The conference finals will remain one-match knockout games, as will the MLS Cup.



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Mexico's Omar Bravo settles on MLS in Kansas City

Omar Bravo is a veteran star on Mexico's most popular club and has been all over the United States for games in big cities. When he agreed to play for a Major League Soccer team, he wanted to make his mark where other players from Mexico had not.

He settled on Sporting Kansas City, which opens its season next month along with other MLS teams.

"There had already been other (Mexican) players in other states in the United States, and in Chicago, Los Angeles," Bravo said in Spanish after a recent preseason practice in Arizona.

Plus, the heart of the Midwest represented something different, something removed from the distractions of bigger-money, bigger-visibility soccer in Mexico, where Bravo has long played for Guadalajara, the popular team known as Chivas.

Bravo had a chat last year with Sporting Kansas City coach Peter Vermes and liked what he heard. In August, he agreed to come to Kansas City as an MLS designated player through a loan agreement with Chivas, MLS and Sporting KC.

Luis Angel Landin of Mexico was the Houston Dynamo's first designated player, joining the team last year. Mexican star Cuauhtemoc Blanco signed with the Chicago Fire in 2007, boosting home attendance and helping the team reach three straight conference finals.

Two other Mexican stars joined the MLS last summer - Nery Castillo signed with Chicago and national team captain Rafael Marquez with New York - but Bravo's deal allowed him to finish his season with Chivas before heading to preseason practices.

The 30-year-old Bravo has 16 goals in 65 international appearances, scoring twice in the 2006 World Cup. He said he is at an important point in his career, and that he likes a challenge.

Never mind the fact that designated players haven't always fared so well in the MLS, or that most Mexican stars who'd come to the mainly American league had failed to live up to expectations.

"It's different. It's a good league," Bravo said. "There's a lot of ignorance with respect to the league in other places, you can say that about Mexico, too. It's good, though, to recognize how much this league has grown, both how physical it is and how much talent there is, and that's the important thing right now."

During the preseason, Bravo has been playing wide as part of a three-man group of forwards with the first unit.

"Comes to training every day, puts it in, doesn't take a play off," Vermes said. "He's added something, the mentoring aspect. He's working with some of the other guys on the team, and he waits for the specific times to do it, most opportune times to do it. And then finally, just his experience on the field and the way he plays. He's a very good player and he's fitting into our system very well."

It's a big season for Sporting KC, formerly the Kansas City Wizards. Expectations of success are raised with the arrival of Bravo, the re-branding of the club and a new soccer-specific stadium that will open this summer.

"I think what it does is it just keeps putting us out there, with a face like his and a player like him," Vermes said of Bravo. "He isn't just a face, he's an icon to the Mexican community for sure. We have (a significant) Mexican community (in the Kansas City area) and I think they're really excited to come watch him play."

Bravo has drawn small crowds of Mexican fans in Chivas jerseys even at preseason matches in Arizona. In Kansas City, he said he was initially surprised at how many Latino fans he's encountered.

Claudio Borghi appointed Chile coach

Claudio Borghi of Argentina was appointed Thursday as Chile's national team coach to replace countryman Marcelo Bielsa, who last year led the South Americans to their best World Cup finish since 1962.

Borghi, who quit three months ago as the coach of Argentine club Boca Juniors, is reported to have signed a contract worth about \$1.5 million annually. Bielsa resigned three months ago, ending a three-month saga over his future. Bielsa stepped down in a dispute with the leadership of Chilean football, but remains very popular after leading the country to the second round in its first World Cup since 1998.

"Today we begin the road to Brazil 2014," said Sergio Jadue, the new president of the Chilean football association. Borghi played for 20 years and coached clubs in Chile such as Audax Italiano and O'Higgins but having the most success with popular club Colo Colo. The former Argentine national player led Argentinos Juniors to the 2010 Clausura title before moving to rival Argentine club Boca. But he may have trouble overshadowing Bielsa.

"This is a big responsibility," Borghi said of his appointment. His contract comes into effect on March 9, but Borghi said he would start working immediately. And he sought to play down replacing Bielsa.

"Always after someone successful, someone else has to follow," Borghi said. Borghi knows many of the Chilean players, having coached them during his club years in the country.

He will make his debut in a friendly on March 26 against Portugal. But his first big challenge will be the July 1-24 Copa America, the continental championship in which Brazil and Argentina are always the favorites.

Chile will play in Group C with Uruguay, Peru and Mexico. At least two other Argentines were also candidates for the job: former Argentina coach Jose Pekerman and Alejandro Sabella, who recently resigned at the coach of Argentine club Estudiantes.

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CHICAGO RIOT ELIMINATED FROM POSTSEASON CONTENTION

Missouri tops Riot, 23-7; Chicago hosts 1st-place Baltimore in home finale Sunday at Odeum

The Chicago Riot's postseason hopes were put to rest on Saturday as the Missouri Comets defeated Chicago, 23-7, in Major Indoor Soccer League action at the Odeum Sports and Expo Center. The Riot fell to 4-13 on the season, while Missouri moved into a third-place tie with the Omaha Vipers with a 7-11 record. The Comets' 10-0 run spanning the second and third quarters was the difference. Missouri also ended the game with an 11-0 run, but three of the four goals came when Miodrag "Miki" Djirisilo came into the game as the sixth attacker.

Riot goalkeeper Jeff Richey had 16 saves, and Comets goalkeeper Danny Waltman had 18 saves.

Next up is the Riot is the team's home finale at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, against the first-place Baltimore Blast at the Odeum. Singer and songwriter Shannon Behm will perform the national anthem, sing at halftime and hold a free post-game show in the upstairs Odeum Lounge. Tickets start at only \$10. Visit www.ChicagoRiotSoccer.com or call 630-708-6284.

The Riot has three regular-season matches remaining this season, capped off by a two-game road trip against Baltimore on March 4 and Missouri on March 6.

The Riot got on the scoreboard in the first 24 seconds with a Bato Radoncic restart goal from Novica "Novi" Marojevic to take a 2-0 lead. Novi faked to his right, go the Comets defense to shift over a bit, and Radoncic struck for the goal on the left side.

Comets midfielder Lucas Rodriguez tied the score at 2-2 at the 8:39 mark with an unassisted goal. Rodriguez opened up some space with some crossover moves against Riot defender Marco Sullo, shot to the lower right side of the net and slotted the ball past Richey.

The Riot pushed their lead to 5-2 with a Roberto Gallo three-point goal from the right side as he drove the ball past Waltman to the left side of the netting. Novi assisted from from the back.

Missouri responded only 26 seconds into the second quarter with a Jamar Beasley goal to cut Chicago's lead to 5-4. Then the Comets took the lead with Geison Moura's two-point goal at the 6:28 mark of the second quarter. Byron Alvarez assisted from the left side.

The Comets took advantage of a power play opportunity with Rodriguez's second goal of the game at the 6:02 mark of the third to take an 8-5 lead. Leo Gibson assisted. Then Beasley kept the Comets' run going with a tap-in goal, assisted from Gibson, at the 9:48 mark of the third to push their lead to 10-5. Beasley's second goal extended Missouri's run to 8-0.

Missouri pushed its run to 10-0 as the Comets intercepted the ball around midfield, eventually resulting in an Alvarez tap-in goal at the 13:18 mark of the third to give Missouri a 12-5 lead heading into the final quarter.

But Chicago started the fourth on the right note with an Alex Megson goal at close range in the box, assisted from Sullo, to cut the deficit to 12-7. Lukin also had two key goal-line stops to prevent the Comets from responding.

However, the Comets had an answer following Lukin's elbowing penalty. Vahid Assadpour tallied a three-point power play goal at the 9:33 mark of the fourth to take a 15-7 lead. Chicago then put Djirisilo in as sixth attacker, but Missouri found an opening with Moura's unassisted score at 10:47 for a 17-7 advantage. Alvarez pushed the lead to 20-7 with an empty net three-point goal at the 12:38 mark of the fourth. And Waltman got into the act with a three-point distribution at 14:12 for the 23-7 final.

Riot captain Fred Degand missed Saturday's match, serving a one-game suspension from a red card issued to him during Chicago's 9-7 loss to Missouri on Feb. 20. Degand returns for Sunday's game against Baltimore.

Missouri Comets (7-11) at Chicago Riot (4-12)
February 26, 2011 -- Odeum Sports and Expo Center, Villa Park, Ill.

Missouri Comets 23, Chicago Riot 7
Missouri 2 4 6 11 - 23
Chicago 5 0 0 2 - 7

SCORING SUMMARY

First quarter

1. Chicago Riot - Bato Radoncic (Novica Marojevic), restart goal, 0:24; 2. Missouri Comets - Lucas Rodriguez (unassisted), 8:39; 3. Chicago Riot - Roberto Gallo (Novica Marojevic), three-point goal.

Second quarter

4. Missouri Comets - Jamar Beasley (unassisted), 0:24; 5. Missouri Comets - Geison Moura (Byron Alvarez), 6:28.

Third quarter

6. Missouri Comets - Lucas Rodriguez (Leo Gibson), power play goal, 6:02; 7. Missouri Comets - Jamar Beasley (Leo Gibson), 9:48; 8. Missouri Comets - Byron Alvarez (Tiguinho), 13:18.

Fourth quarter

9. Chicago Riot - Alex Megson (Marco Sullo), 0:24; 10. Missouri Comets - Vahid Assadpour (Lucas Rodriguez), three-point power play goal, 9:33; 11. Missouri Comets - Geison Moura (unassisted), 10:47; 12. Missouri Comets - Byron Alvarez (unassisted), three-point goal, 12:38; 13. Missouri Comets - Danny Waltman (unassisted), three-point goal, 14:12

Saves: Jeff Richey (Chicago Riot) 17; Danny Waltman (Missouri Comets) 18

Starters: Chicago -- Jeff Richey (GK), Will Kletzien, Eric Duda, Semir Mesanovic, Bato Radoncic, Alex Megson; Missouri -- Danny Waltman (GK), Vahid Assadpour

PENALTIES:

Second quarter

10:12: Miodrag Djirisilo (Chicago Riot), holding, blue card

Third quarter

0:45: Tiguinho (Missouri Comets), tripping, blue card

5:08: Miodrag Djirisilo (Chicago Riot), tripping, blue card

Fourth quarter

9:14: Eric Lukin (Chicago Riot), elbowing, blue card

About the Chicago Riot:

The Chicago Riot is a member of the Major Indoor Soccer League and plays its home games at the Odeum Sports and Expo Center in Villa Park, Ill. The Riot is playing in its first season in the five-team MISL, which features the Chicago Riot, Baltimore Blast, Milwaukee Wave, Missouri Comets and Omaha Vipers. Next up is the Riot is the team's home finale at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, against Baltimore at the Odeum. For tickets and more information about the Riot, visit www.ChicagoRiotSoccer.com or call 630-708-6284.



Platini warns Croatian teams face UEFA ban

UEFA President Michel Platini has warned Croatia its national and club teams face a lengthy suspension from European competitions if fan violence continues.

Platini has told state president Ivo Josipovic in a meeting that Croatia must begin dealing with its hooligan problem this year.

Dinamo Zagreb fans have caused violent incidents in Romania, the Czech Republic and at home in recent seasons.

Platini says Croatia should prosecute hooligans swiftly, ban them traveling abroad to matches, and improve international police cooperation.

Josipovic says Croatia is preparing new laws.

UEFA says its executive committee has approved a zero tolerance approach and will closely monitor Croatia this year.



Juan Roman Riquelme left out of Boca Juniors squad



Juan Roman Riquelme has been left out of the Boca Juniors squad for Saturday's match against All Boys, raising questions about the future of the talented but temperamental 32-year-old midfielder. Riquelme missed last weekend's 1-0 victory over Racing with an injured right ankle. He said earlier in the week he had recovered and was ready to play at Boca's famous La Bombonera stadium. New Boca coach Julio Cesar Falcioni, who took over the club two months ago, has a strained relationship with Riquelme. Falcioni said he would not include the former Barcelona player among the starters or substitutes for the match. "Boca hired me to make big decisions," Falcioni said Thursday. "The team played well and this is my decision to try to keep it up." Riquelme played in Boca's opening match of the season two weeks ago, a humiliating 4-1 loss against Godoy Cruz in which he injured his ankle.

The playmaking midfielder has been plagued by injuries the last several years and fell out of favor with former Argentina coach Diego Maradona, who left him out of the squad during most of his tenure.

Riquelme had surgery on his left knee in May 2010, played only a handful of games, then missed the final four matches of the Apertura due to Achilles' tendinitis.

Argentina's Iturbe: I won't change nationality

Promising 17-year-old Argentine forward Juan Manuel Iturbe has no intention of taking Paraguayan nationality.

Born in Argentina to parents from Paraguay, Iturbe was a star player for the Argentines in the recently completed South American qualifying for the Under-20 World Cup.

He is playing for Paraguay club Cerro Porteno but is expected to transfer to FC Porto when he turns 18 on June 4. The move to Portugal is expected to showcase Iturbe to larger European clubs like Manchester United.

"I opted for Argentina because I have been treated well there by the coaches and management,"

Iturbe said Thursday. "I will not be taking Paraguayan nationality."

Iturbe met Thursday with Paraguay President Fernando Lugo. "President Lugo didn't ask if I wanted to become a Paraguayan," Iturbe said. "He only wanted to meet me know more about my parents moving to Argentina looking for work."



Gremio team bus attacked in Colombia



Brazilian club Gremio will make a formal complaint after its team bus was attacked by fans of Colombian team Junior Barranquilla. No one was injured. Three windows were smashed following Gremio's 2-1 loss to Junior in the group stage of the Copa Libertadores on Thursday.

Gremio team official Antonio Vicente Martins has told Radio Gaucha the club will complain to CONMEBOL, the governing body of South American football.

Martins told O Globo newspaper that nearly everybody on the bus was sleeping and thought they had been targeted by gunfire when they were attacked.

The two sides are due to meet again in Brazil in early April.

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FIFA rules Yemen unsafe for Olympic qualifier

FIFA has postponed Yemen's home qualifying match for the 2012 Olympics against Singapore for a second time because of pro-democracy protests in the capital. FIFA says both legs of the first round must be played on neutral territory to ensure that matches proceed "in a totally safe and secure environment."

Yemen was scheduled to host Singapore on Feb. 16 in Sanaa, where protesters have been demanding the removal of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. FIFA delayed the match for one week.

FIFA says it will work with the Asian Football Confederation to find a neutral host city and new match dates.



Becks spurred by Tottenham spell

David Beckham is confident his decision to train with Tottenham will benefit the Los Angeles Galaxy in the long run.



The former England captain spent a six-week spell with the Premier League club as he looked to maintain his fitness levels having only returned from an Achilles injury late in the last Major League Soccer campaign.

The 35-year-old had even hoped to play for Spurs but negotiations between the clubs broke down.

Beckham's Galaxy contract runs out in November and the midfielder believes training with Spurs will stand him in good stead.

"My only objective was to get fit for the Galaxy and the MLS season," he told reporters at the Galaxy's training ground. "My objective was not to play for a Premier League team, and I am grateful to Spurs and Harry (Redknapp) for how they looked after me.

"If there was an option to play then I would have taken it, but without doubt I wanted to go somewhere and train and not take the three months off and sit around doing nothing.

"At this stage of my career and with the injury I had I felt it was more important for me to train.

"This was the time I was always going to come back, that was agreed and nothing would have changed that."

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18-34 year-olds read a newspaper in any given week.

Brazil faces challenges in 2014 WCup preparations

hundreds of thousands of visitors expected for the monthlong tournament in 2014, officials say. The audit court already warned last year that renovations in some airports may not be completed by 2014.

Stadium construction is another area of concern. Sao Paulo, South America's biggest city, has yet to have a stadium project approved by FIFA even though the deadline from the governing body expired last year. Corinthians football club says it will build a World Cup-worthy venue, but there is still discussion about whether it will be able to host the tournament's opening match, as had been planned for Sao Paulo.

The Maracana, likely to host the final, has seen a significant increase in its renovation budget, and the report said authorities face a tight deadline to get the stadium ready according to the original timeline. The famed venue is also expected to be used in the 2013 Confederations Cup, further increasing pressure.

In addition, the Nacional stadium in the capital Brasilia runs the risk of becoming a "white elephant" - a stadium rarely used by local teams after the tournament, despite having a seating capacity of 71,000. The Amazonia Arena in Manaus is simply an "incomplete and deficient" project, the audit court said, and in Natal it's not even clear which construction companies will start building the Dunas Arena.

The delays have prompted criticism from local media and from some of the country's top football figures. Havelange, the FIFA president from 1974-98, last week told the Estado de S. Paulo newspaper that he thought stadium construction was slow and that the Brazilian government needed to pick up the pace.

Pele said Brazil was facing a "big risk of being embarrassed" because of delays in stadium construction and in the modernization and renovation of the nation's overcrowded and saturated airports.

The report also points to possible delays in projects to improve urban transport in cities like Fortaleza, Belo Horizonte and Recife.

In Rio, authorities are facing accusations they are violating citizens' human rights by forcing slum dwellers to move to make way for the construction of a transit system. Residents of three shantytowns recently filed a complaint with the Organization of American States, saying that the city is arbitrarily relocating them.

Eventual pressure by the international body could lead to project changes and delays.

In northeastern Natal, court orders have slowed down bidding process for city projects linked to the World Cup, and Salvador is facing difficulties finishing World Cup-related construction work because of missed deadlines. In the jungle city of Manaus, a monorail project "may not be concluded before the 2014 World Cup," the report said.

Officials at all levels are being criticized for missing deadlines, not controlling costs and for a lack of transparency in government actions, according to the report from the Audit Court, which is responsible for overseeing how the Brazilian government spends public money.

Brazil's World Cup organizing committee said in an e-mail on Friday that it had no comment at this time on the report. There are issues with transport improvements in some host cities and even doubts whether the crown jewel of Brazilian football - the Maracana Stadium in Rio - will be ready as scheduled, the report said.

The warning comes just days after football great Pele and former FIFA President Joao Havelange expressed concerns about the pace of preparations for football's biggest tournament.

The report, published Wednesday, said there is a "very great risk" of misuse of public funds, to the level of what happened in the preparations for the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, when the government acknowledged that it made serious mistakes in planning and financing for that Olympic-style event.

Airport renovations in most of the 12 host cities are expected to only begin this year and the report said problems with bidding processes and environmental licensing may cause delays in upgrading Brazil's woeful air transport infrastructure. That's already the case with the Viracopos airport in Campinas, near Sao Paulo. Upgrade work there is behind schedule because of difficulties getting the necessary environmental licenses. Delays in bidding processes are hurting work at the Salvador airport in northeastern Brazil, according to the report.

Faltering airport infrastructure and lack of capacity is one of the main concerns ahead of the World Cup and the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

Even without those major events, the booming Brazilian economy is rapidly increasing the number of passengers the airports serve as a growing middle class begins using air travel more frequently. Beyond that, most airports will need significant upgrades just to accommodate the

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STARS

STUDENTS TEACHING AND
REACHING STUDENTS

STARS participates in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez Campus (UPRM) Region 6 Regional Science Bowl 2011 held Saturday, February 26th 2011 at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Science Bowl® is a nationwide academic competition that tests students' knowledge in all areas of science. High school and middle school students are quizzed in a fast paced question-and-answer format similar to Jeopardy. Competing teams from diverse backgrounds are comprised of four students, one alternate, and a teacher who serves as an advisor and coach.

A featured event at the National Finals for middle school students, the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Model Car Challenge invites students to design, build, and race model cars. This competition tests the creative engineering skills of many of the brightest math and science students in the nation as they gain hands-on experience in the automotive design process and with hydrogen fuel cell technology.

DOE launched its National Science Bowl competition in 1991 to encourage high school students to excel in science and math and to pursue careers in those fields. The National Science Bowl's high school competition now involves approximately 9,000 students. DOE introduced the National Science Bowl's competition for middle school students in 2002. It now involves more than 4,500 students. The National Science Bowl is the only science competition in the United States sponsored by a federal agency.

Our next fundraiser Friday March 11th 2011 at Cafe Mezcal. Save the date. Enjoy a homemade Mexican Dinner including Chicken and Beef dishes, drinks, and live entertainment. Donation only \$25. Continue to support our young STARS (see flyer).

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