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effective playing forward or midfield for the Irish ... combines with teammates Kerri Hanks, Brittany Bock and Michele Weissenhofer to give Irish a potent core to the team's attack ... tremendous all-around player who has been overshadowed in her career by fellow forwards Katie Thorlakson and Kerri Hanks (who earned 2004 and '06 national player-of-the-year honors, respectively) ... invaluable member of the team who does all the "little things" with regularity ... has very quick turn on the ball that results in drawing hard fouls and PKs ... rates as possibly the team's most technical player ... a tremendous creator off the dribble, as a crafty and deceptive player with an assortment of moves ... tough to knock off the ball, combining sturdy frame with smooth play ... has not missed a game in her career (79; 68 starts) as leader of nation's winningest senior class (72-5-2 career record; .924), putting the 2007 seniors on pace to rank among winningest classes in college soccer history ... the 2006 seniors (92-8-3/.908; from 2003-06) own the most career wins in Notre Dame history while the 1997 seniors (led by Holly Manthei and Kate Sobrero Markgraf) own the top career win pct. in Irish women's soccer history (.921; 91-6-4 from '94-'97) ... she and her fellow seniors are unbeaten at Alumni Field (40-0-1, in official fall games), with their first three seasons including a 0.49 goals-against average, 52 shutouts, 69 games with 0-1 goals allowed, 41 wins by 3-plus goals and 18 by 5-plus (average shot margin of 23-5) ... proven competitor with wealth of top-level youth experience, in addition to spending past four summers in the W-League ... could face several Nordic Cup teammates in 2007 season: Stanford's Rachel Buehler, Virginia's Jess Rostedt, Nikki Krzysik and Becky Sauerbrunn, Santa Clara's Kiki Bosio and UConn's Brittany Taylor ... one of 13 Ohio natives to play for Notre Dame (including current players Courtney Rosen and Rose Augustin), with others including Academic All-America forward Mary Boland (Hudson) ... former Notre Dame players to wear number five include current U.S. midfielder Shannon Boxx ('95-'98) and Academic All-America defender Vanessa Pruzinsky ('99-'03) ... enters senior year with a 3.12 cumulative GPA.



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## Dudek to play last match for Real Madrid

Goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek will play his last game for Real Madrid at home to Almeria in La Liga. The 38-year-old has been the understudy to Spain and Real captain Iker Casillas for the last four years, after leaving Liverpool for the Bernabeu in 2007.

Dudek, who won 59 caps as an international with Poland, was a part of the Real squad that won La Liga in 2008 and the King's Cup last month. He is perhaps best remembered for helping Liverpool win the European Cup final against AC Milan in 2005, when his goal-line antics and saves in the penalty shootout helped deliver the trophy to the

English club. (Writing by Mark Elington, editing by Mark Meadows.)



## Spain leads FIFA rankings in unchanged top 10



World Cup winner Spain stayed at the top of the FIFA rankings in May after a quiet month on the international scene left the top 10 unchanged. The Netherlands remained No. 2, followed by Brazil, Germany and Argentina. The only movement in the top

20 saw No. 13 Chile switch places with Japan. The United States leads CONCACAF at No. 22 going into the Gold Cup, which starts June 5. Senegal soared 11 places to 40th to return to the top 50 for the first time since January 2009.

Afghanistan reached its highest place since the rankings were introduced in 1993, climbing 10 places to 164th. Only seven matches - all friendlies - have been played since the April rankings.

## British player in court bid for Twitter details

Lawyers say a British footballer has begun legal action to demand that online messaging service Twitter disclose the account details of users who broke an anonymity order. The player, who is not identified in court documents, obtained a judge-

issued order banning publication of his identity in connection with an alleged affair with a reality television contestant. In a statement, Schillings law firm said "an application has been made to obtain limited information concerning

the unlawful use of Twitter by a small number of individuals." Earlier this month a Twitter account posted six tweets claiming to expose celebrities who had obtained court-issued gag orders.



## French federation names host cities for Euro 2016



The French football federation has named the nine cities that will host matches during the 2016 European championships. Bordeaux, Lens, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Nancy, Nice, Paris and Saint-Denis were chosen on Friday ahead of Saint-Etienne and Toulouse, which have been named

as reserve locations. The northern town of Lens was chosen despite its club being demoted to the second division this season. French federation president Fernand Duchaussoy said "all the bids were of a very, very high standard, but the choice was very clear and

decided at the first round of voting." Lyon was included despite legal problems surrounding the building of a new stadium in the city. Four new stadiums in Bordeaux, Lille, Lyon and Nice will be built for the competition.

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# Robinho in Brazil squad; Ronaldinho, Kaka out

Robinho is back in Brazil's national squad for friendlies against the Netherlands and Romania next month, but Ronaldinho and Kaka were again omitted Thursday. Brazil will host the Netherlands on June 4 in the central city of Goiania and Romania on June 7 in Sao Paulo.

The match against Romania will mark the farewell for former Brazil star Ronaldo, who retired from football earlier this year. He is expected to play only a few minutes before being honored at halftime.

Alexandre Pato, young Santos sensation Neymar and Fred, a member of the 2006 World Cup team, were also included in the list of 28 players selected by coach Mano Menezes.

The friendlies will serve as preparation for the Copa America in July in Argentina, but Menezes said he will only pick his final squad for the South American tournament following the match against Romania.

Menezes said Kaka is unlikely to make the Copa America squad because he feels the midfielder still hasn't fully recovered after having knee surgery that kept him sidelined for several months.

"After (the Copa America) we will

evaluate him again to see if he is improving as expected," Menezes said. The coach said Paulo Henrique Ganso, Neymar's teammate at Santos, remains in his plans for the Copa America and only wasn't picked because of a muscle injury. The 21-year-old playmaker will be reevaluated just before the competition. Ronaldinho likely won't get another chance.

He played well in his return to Brazilian football earlier this year, but a string of recent poor performances brought jeers from Flamengo fans. He missed the 2010 World Cup but was picked by Menezes for the first and only time for the friendly against Argentina last year.

Robinho missed the friendly against Scotland in London in March because Menezes said the AC Milan striker needed to rest.

The match against the Netherlands will mark a rematch of the 2010 World Cup quarterfinals in South Africa, when Brazil was eliminated by the Dutch.

"The friendlies will be important for our preparation for the Copa America, but we have a recent history against the Netherlands," Menezes said. "We can't get that (World Cup) result back, but we will want to win

this one."

Menezes said Brazil will also take the game against Romania seriously despite Ronaldo being set to play a few minutes in the first half as a tribute before he is replaced. "It will be an important test and we will try to win it, too," Menezes said.

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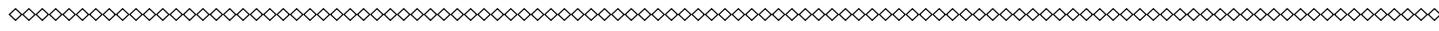
Squad:

Goalkeepers: Julio Cesar (Inter Milan), Victor (Gremio), Jefferson (Botafogo), Fabio (Cruzeiro).

Defenders: Dani Alves (Barcelona), Maicon (Inter Milan), Andre Santos (Fenerbahce), Adriano (Barcelona), Lucio (Inter Milan), David Luiz (Chelsea), Thiago Silva (AC Milan), Luisao (Benfica).

Midfielders: Lucas (Liverpool), Ramires (Chelsea), Sandro (Tottenham), Anderson (Manchester United), Elias (Atletico Madrid), Lucas (Sao Paulo), Henrique (Cruzeiro), Jadson (Shakhtar), Elano (Santos), Thiago Neves (Flamengo).

Forwards: Alexandre Pato (Milan), Nilmar (Villarreal), Neymar (Santos), Leandro Damiao (Internacional), Fred (Fluminense), Robinho (Milan).




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## South Africa seeks government advice on Egypt game

South Africa football officials are being advised by their government on the security situation in Egypt ahead of a crucial African Cup of Nations qualifier in Cairo next month.

The South African Football Association had also written to the Confederation of African Football to seek assurances over the safety of its team ahead of the June 5 game, a spokesman said on Thursday.

The South Africans are likely to face a hostile atmosphere at the Cairo International Stadium, with Egypt's volatile political situation and a recent upsurge in crowd violence in north African football combining with a disastrous run from the home team. Seven-time African champion Egypt - winner of the last three Cup of Nations - has to beat South Africa to keep alive slim hopes of making the 2012 tournament.

There have also been deadly clashes in Egypt between Muslim and Christian groups, and the 75,000-capacity Cairo International Stadium saw a violent pitch invasion by home fans in an African club game in April.

However, SAFA officials told reporters they were satisfied with security in the Egyptian capital, where South Africa's squad will spend three days preparing ahead of the match.

"On the issue of possible violence and the outbreak of sectarian violence in Cairo, we did write a letter to CAF just to find out if the situation is conducive and so far everything seems to be OK," SAFA spokesman Morio Sanyane said. "We haven't received anything to the contrary so the game will proceed as scheduled on the 5th of June."

SAFA also sought advice from its own government.

"Government intelligence sources are actually giving us updates on this matter to make sure that everything is fine," SAFA vice president Chief Mweliso Nonkonyana said. "So far, we have been assured that everything will be good."

South Africa coach Pitso Mosimane recalled leading players to a 23-man squad for the qualifier following a 1-0 win for an under-strength Bafana Bafana over Tanzania in a friendly last weekend. Mosimane said the Group G match would be stressful for his team, with bottom-placed Egypt facing an embarrassing elimination, heightening tensions.

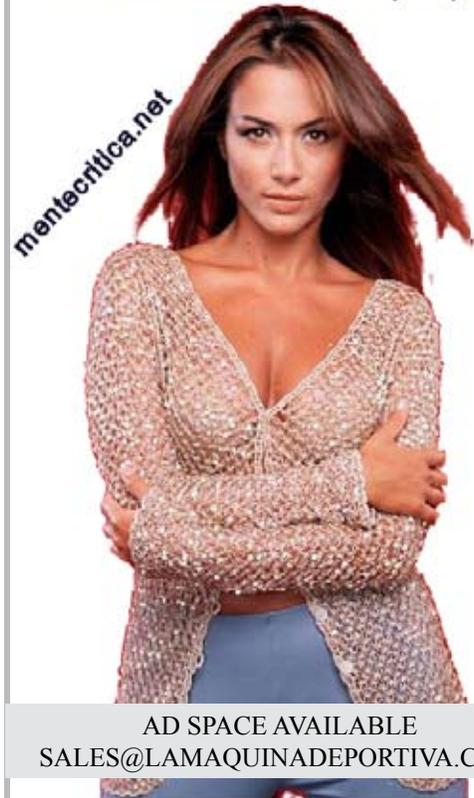
"Difficult match. We all know what this match means for Egypt. They don't want anything less than a victory, obviously," Mosimane said. "But I think we have a good team that can manage it and take the stress."

"Unfortunately we are facing the Egyptians in their back yard and in desperate times."

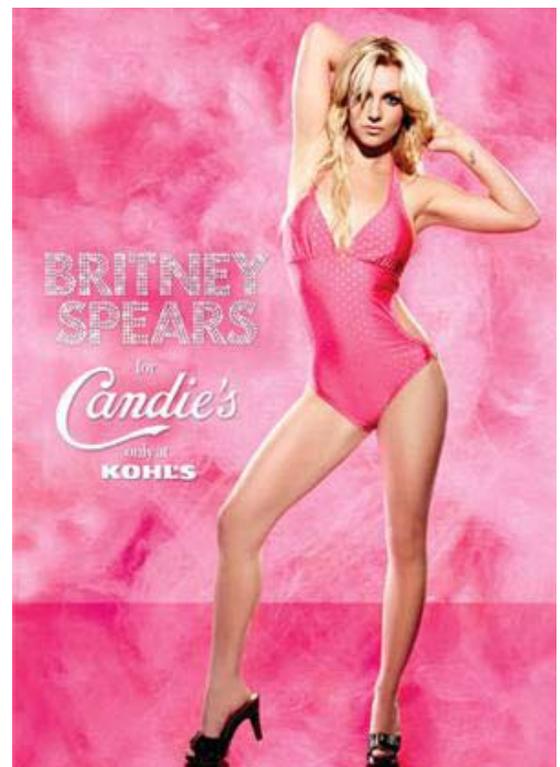
Tottenham midfielder Steven Pienaar was named captain of the squad, which also included Maccabi Haifa defender Tsepo Masilela - who returned after a four-month injury absence. Pienaar's Tottenham teammate Bongani Khumalo was missing with injury, while South Africa-based goalkeeper Mbongeni Mzimela was the only uncapped player.

Portsmouth defender Aaron Mokoena was again left out, signaling the end of the international career of South Africa's World Cup captain and most capped player.

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## Scolari suspended 6 matches for criticizing ref

World Cup-winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has been suspended six games for saying that a referee was predetermined to make calls against his team in the semifinals of the Sao Paulo state championship. The sports tribunal also fined the Brazilian about \$25,000 (?17,500) for his remarks after Palmeiras had a player sent off and was eliminated by Corinthians on penalties on May 1. Palmeiras didn't want referee Paulo Cesar de Oliveira to officiate the match after a newspaper reported that he would be selected, but officials kept him in the selection process and he was eventually picked. Oliveira gave a straight red card to Palmeiras defender Danilo in a controversial incident early in the first half and Scolari complained heavily in the post-match news conference. The game was 0-0 when Danilo was dismissed. The game finished 1-1 after regulation time and Corinthians went on to win 5-4 on penalties. Palmeiras goalkeeper Deola also complained on Twitter after the match and received a two-match suspension for his remarks, while Danilo got the usual one-match suspension for the foul that prompted his red card. Palmeiras and Santos are Brazil's most successful league clubs, with eight titles each. Palmeiras starts this year's Brazilian league season on Sunday against Botafogo.

## Finland to charge 9 league players over bribes

Nine former players in Finland will be charged with accepting bribes as part of a wider probe into match-fixing in the Nordic country's football league, a regional prosecutor said Friday. Two of the nine players, who all played for Rovaniemen Palloseura, will also be charged with assisting in bribery, said Maija Mononen, a district prosecutor from the Lapland Prosecutor's Office. She declined to name the players or give further details until formal charges are read in court when the case opens in June.

Earlier this month, two Zambian brothers from AC Oulu, another Finnish league team, were convicted of taking 50,000 euros (\$72,500) in bribes to influence the outcome of a game last year. Donewell and Dominic Yobe confessed to playing "below their normal level" during a 5-0 loss against TPS.

The cases are linked to a match-fixing investigation which began in February when Finnish police arrested a Singaporean man with false identity papers. He is suspected of bribing players at three Finnish clubs, including the two Zambians and the nine former Rovaniemen Palloseura players.

Court officials said charges were expected to be brought against him in the next few weeks.

Investigators, who cannot name the suspect until he is formally charged, said the Singaporean first contacted football players in Finland in late 2009. He is suspected of match-fixing in 2010-11, involving at least 10 games and three clubs.

The third club was not named but the league season opened this month without three-time champion Tampere, which was suspended last month for links to suspected fixers from Singapore.

In a separate, bigger match-fixing probe in Germany, a Croat and two co-defendants were convicted of fraud by a German court on Thursday. Ante Sapina was sentenced to 5 1/2 years in prison after confessing to fixing more than 20 matches, including a World Cup qualifying game and several matches in the top European club competitions.

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## Norway's topflight footballers begin strike



More than half of Norway's topflight footballers have begun a strike, with the right to pick their own boots among their demands.

A total of 95 footballers from nine of the league's 16 teams - including leader Tromsø - are taking part in the strike that began Friday. It could lead to the cancellation of this weekend's

matches.

According to Norwegian news agency NTB, the players want greater freedom in choosing their own equipment, such as boots and goalkeeper gloves, a review of their contracts and better protection during injury layoffs.

The Football Association of Norway says it is in dialogue with the clubs and will decide later Friday whether the ninth league round this weekend will be called off or not.

## FIFA rules Syria unsafe for Olympic qualifier



Syria is searching for a neutral venue to hold its 2012 Olympics qualifier after FIFA ruled the country was unsafe because of ongoing anti-government protests.

The first leg was originally scheduled to be played at the Al Abbasiyin Stadium in Damascus on June 19. However, FIFA informed the Syrian FA that it had decided to move the match against Turkmenistan to a neutral venue after taking into account "the very exceptional security circumstances still prevailing in Syria."

Syria says it will come up with a neutral venue this week. Since mid-March, Syria has launched a violent crackdown against protesters that rights groups say has left more than 850 people dead. Thousands more have been detained.

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## Robert Pires says Thierry Henry wants him in MLS

New York Red Bulls star Thierry Henry wants former France and Arsenal teammate Robert Pires to join him in Major League Soccer.

Pires says "he called me up and said 'Come over and play with me,' but there are no real offers yet."

Pires told regional newspaper the Birmingham Mail that Villa has not spoken to him about renewing his short-term contract when it expires at the end of the Premier League season. The 37-year-old midfielder was a free agent when he joined Villa in October following the expiration of his contract with Spain's Villarreal.

Pires has started only four matches but wants to talk to Gerard Houllier before deciding his future. The Villa manager has been absent since April 20 because of a heart problem.



## Japan pulls out of Copa America soccer again

Japan has pulled out of the Copa America soccer tournament in South America because of problems forming a team following March's earthquake and tsunami.

The president of Japan's soccer federation said at a news conference Tuesday that European clubs wouldn't release Japan's top players for the South American championship in July. Japan was a guest team for the event in Argentina and therefore did not have the right to compel clubs to release players for national duty.

Japan initially pulled out of the tournament after the catastrophe in March, only to change its mind two weeks later. Costa Rica looks set to replace Japan in the tournament from July 1-24.

Japan played in the Copa in 1999.





## Kobe striker Lee fired for drunk driving



Japanese club Vissel Kobe has terminated the contract of South Korean striker Lee Jae-min two days after he was arrested for drunk driving.

Vissel announced the termination of Lee's contract on its official website on Wednesday.

Lee was arrested for allegedly driving under the influence after he crashed his vehicle into a Kobe convenience store at 1:30 a.m. on Monday. He admitted to consuming alcohol at home before the accident, Kyodo news agency reported.

Lee joined Kobe during the middle of last season and has played in three matches this season.

## Polish police put hooligans' photos on Internet

Polish police have published on the Internet the photos of 51 football hooligans involved in a riot at a match earlier this month. Police say the aim is to publicly identify them and signal that violence in stadiums will not be tolerated.

Poland is the co-host of the 2012 European Championship along with Ukraine, and is under pressure to prove it can eradicate fan violence.

Police put the images on their website of hooligans involved in the riot during the Poland Cup final on May 3 in Bydgoszcz. They said the photos were taken before and during the match.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk warned last week that Poland may not host Euro 2012 unless authorities and football clubs ensure the safety of supporters in stadiums.



## Abidal feared he'd never play again after tumor



Barcelona defender Eric Abidal feared he'd never play again after being diagnosed with a liver tumor in March. The 31-year-old France defender returned this month following surgery in mid-March but Abidal wasn't sure he could return. He says "when they detected the tumor you start to think the worst and that was the first thing I asked the doctor."

Abidal says the episode has him seeing things "differently" as he sold his vehicles with funds going to charities. Abidal says "when you have a problem like mine, cars don't serve any purpose."

Abidal isn't sure he'll be fit to play a full 90 minutes for the Spanish champion against Manchester United in the May 28 Champions League final but he is training with that goal.

## Costa Rica will replace Japan in Copa America



Costa Rica has accepted an invitation to replace Japan in the Copa America, the soccer championship of South America.

Japan withdrew Tuesday because of problems forming a team following March's earthquake and tsunami.

Costa Rica will send a team of players mostly under 23, with five older players.

"We are not just going to take part, we want to play a good role," Costa Rica federation president Eduardo Li said. "We firmly believe going to the Copa America is important."

Costa Rica and Mexico are invited guests to the tournament, which will be held in Argentina from July 1-24.

## No Tarpley for US women's soccer team

Heather O'Reilly is back where she became one of the stars of women's college soccer. She only wishes one of her former North Carolina teammates could join her.

Instead, the U.S. team is learning to play without former Tar Heel Lindsay Tarpley, who will miss the upcoming Women's World Cup with a knee injury.

The Americans' first game without the versatile midfielder comes Wednesday night when they play Japan in their next-to-last tuneup before the World Cup.

O'Reilly says Tarpley is "one of the best teammates out there" and the Americans need to collectively raise their level of play to make up for her absence.

Tarpley will miss 6-8 months after tearing her right anterior cruciate ligament last weekend in an exhibition win over Japan.



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## Iran among 4 bidders to host FIFA Club World Cup

Iran is among four countries bidding to host FIFA's Club World Cup in 2013 and 2014.

FIFA says the other candidates are Morocco, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. They must submit official bid documents by Sept. 30.

FIFA's executive committee is scheduled to choose the host in October.

The knockout competition brings together the champion club of each of FIFA's six continental confederations plus the host country's champion.

The UAE has hosted the past two editions in Abu Dhabi, and Japan will host in 2011 and '12

## Former Ecuador keeper Cevallos retires aged 40

Former Ecuador goalkeeper Jose Francisco Cevallos has announced his retirement at the age of 40.

Cevallos, who made 89 appearances for Ecuador and kept goal in the country's first ever World Cup appearance in 2002, says he will hang up his gloves after his club Liga de Quito's match against Independiente del Valle on Sunday.

Cevallos is "calm" about his retirement because "a new generation of players is ready to take over."

The goalkeeper, known as the "Hands of Ecuador", won the Copa Libertadores with Liga in 2008, following that with the Copa Sudamericana in 2009 and the Recopa Sudamericana in 2009 and 2010 to complete the full set of continental club titles.

He made his debut as a professional in 1990 with Ecuadorean side Barcelona de Guayaquil.



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## Mexico goalkeeper Corona cut from Gold Cup squad

Mexico goalkeeper Jose de Jesus Corona has been dropped from the national squad to defend next month's CONCACAF Gold Cup after television cameras caught him headbutting the trainer of a rival team during the league playoff semifinals.

Corona, who plays for Mexico City's Cruz Azul, was involved in a fight between players and staff toward the end of his club's defeat to Morelia on Sunday after a supporter ran onto the pitch.

Cameras caught Corona land a headbutt on Morelia's physical trainer Sergio Martin. At the time, two Cruz Azul players and a Morelia player were sent off, while Corona escaped without punishment.

Mexico team director Hector Gonzalez Inarritu said Monday that Corona had been cut because players must set an example.

"One of the points we've considered in the national team are the values of social responsibility and nonviolence," Gonzalez Inarritu said. "The sporting part is important, the winning of trophies and lifting cups, but it's also important to be an example to the fans and to young people."

Monterrey goalkeeper Jonathan Orozco has been called up to take Corona's place for the Gold Cup, which features teams from the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football to be held from June 5-25 in the United States.

The team began training Monday in preparation for the opening match against El Salvador on June 5 at Arlington, Texas.

"It would hurt a lot to be dropped," Corona acknowledged earlier Monday before his punishment was announced. "It's always sad and painful to be left out of the national team, but I'm calm because I know I messed up and lost control."

Corona is no stranger to disciplinary problems. Last year he was involved in a bar brawl that cost him his place in the World Cup squad that traveled to South Africa.

The goalkeeper said he hoped to have the chance to explain his violent reaction to national team coach Jose Manuel de la Torre.

"I was provoked, I'd like them to analyze the whole video," Corona said.

## Ex-referee makes fix claims in Argentina

A former referee has repeated his claim that football in Argentina is riddled with corruption, telling a newspaper that clubs pay money to buy championships and fix promotion spots.

Javier Ruiz, a referee until 2010, was quoted as saying in Tuesday's edition of Libre that he was involved in several cases himself and has proof.

"There are even referees who charge at half-time. This is big business," said Ruiz, who first made corruption claims last year. Ruiz cited Boca Juniors' 2008 championship and the promotion to the top flight by San Martin de Tucuman in 2008 and Chacarita Juniors in 2009 as examples of fixing.

Ruiz also said River Plate's current problems battling relegation are the result of former directors promising to pay officials and not delivering.

"Why do you think River is fighting the drop?" he told Libre. "If you don't pay (the referees) they are capable of stopping you pass the halfway line."

The 43-year-old Ruiz, who said he left the job voluntarily, nominated "four or five" referees currently in action as having fixed games.

None of the clubs or individuals mentioned have commented. Guillermo Marconi, head of Argentina's referees' union, told the C5N news channel that an investigation should be opened.

"The situation should not be disregarded," Marconi said. "Just as there are corrupt doctors, lawyers, accountants, public figures and journalists, there are also referees."

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# Numbers don't lie.





**Yolanda Sanchez**  
Executive Director

# STARS

**STUDENTS TEACHING AND  
REACHING STUDENTS ®**

## STARS For the Millennium

Thank every single one of you that continues to allow us to give our children great opportunities. Our monthly fundraisers allow us to provide a stipend to all our high school students that tutor/ mentor our middle school students. You allow us to show the children that their education matters.

Support STARS Project: CHILDREN are our inspiration, EDUCATION is our passion Fundraiser on Wednesday, May 25 at the EXCALIBUR...

You can purchase your ticket or donate at <http://www.starsproject.com/events/>

Thank you Tico at LaMaquinaDeportiva.com for your unconditional support.

Sincerely,  
Yolanda Sanchez  
Executive/Director

**STARS Project**  
**Cordially invites you to attend,**  
**Changing the world through EDUCATION,**  
**One Child At A Time Fund Raiser**

**Wednesday- May 25, 2011**  
**5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**EXCALIBUR**  
**632 N. Dearborn Street**  
**Chicago, IL**

**All Donations Are Tax Deductible**

<b>Donation:</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>Donation includes:</b>
<b>Supporter:</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>Entertainment,</b>
<b>Patron:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>Cocktails &amp;</b>
<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>Hors d'oeuvres</b>

**For more Info please visit us: [www.starsproject.com](http://www.starsproject.com)**