



KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT: Glazer refuses to comment

Glazer silent on plans for Old Trafford

MALCOLM GLAZER refused to answer questions about Manchester United last night. The club's new owner stayed silent when asked about his takeover at Old Trafford.

He was quizzed at a press conference to announce the Raymond James Stadium, home to his American football team Tampa Bay Buccaneers, would host the 2009 Super Bowl.

By DAVID McDONNELL

Glazer did not respond, but his son Brian said: "We're here today to celebrate the Super Bowl in Tampa in 2009. It's a very important day and I would hope you would respect that."

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue glanced over at Glazer as another question was fired in his direction, but the tycoon's only reaction was to smile. He was pressed again on United after the news conference, but walked away without responding.

Martin O'Neill - tipped as a successor to Sir Alex Ferguson at United - insisted he would return to management in the future after announcing he was stepping down at Celtic. O'Neill will quit the

Glasgow club after five years following Saturday's Scottish Cup Final against Dundee United, with former Southampton boss Gordon Strachan taking over on June 1 on a one-year rolling contract.

After leading Celtic to three Scottish Premier League titles and a UEFA Cup Final, O'Neill will take time off from football to care for his wife Geraldine, who is suffering from cancer.

"I hope I do return to management but I have things to do," said O'Neill. "I'd definitely like to get back into management, but when that is I wouldn't be sure - that will obviously depend on other aspects."

CARRICK CENTRAL TO SVEN PLANS



HOLD BACK THE KNIGHT: Carrick trains with Zat Knight in Chicago

SVEN GORAN Eriksson believes Michael Carrick is back to the form that earned him an England call-up early in his reign as coach.

Eriksson confirmed yesterday that Carrick will start in central midfield - possibly alongside Jermaine Jenas - against the United States in Chicago on Saturday. It is Carrick's first cap since he played against Mexico and Holland in 2001.

"When I first came here and he was playing for West Ham in the Premiership, he did very well," Eriksson said.

"I picked him twice and I liked him very much. Then he got injured and then West Ham went down. I think

he's had some difficult years. Then when he signed for Tottenham, at the start he didn't play. "He had to fight to come into the team but, since then, he's been better and better."

"He will play central, hopefully with Jenas, in the first game of the tour. He is a very good passer, he's young and I'm happy that he's doing well again."

Eriksson also confirmed that keeper David James will start in place of Paul Robinson. The Swede added: "David James will play. He deserves that. Since he has been out of the side, he has reacted fantastically. Could he win his England place back? You never know."

Football Latest



MOYES: Spending spree

Moyes to Fors issue

By ALAN NIXON

EVERTON boss David Moyes is making a £3million bid to sign Chelsea's Mikael Forssell.

Moyes has opened talks with the champions about taking the Finnish hitman permanently, along with midfielder Scott Parker.

He wants to see off Birmingham, Blackburn and Schalke 04 for the 24-year-old goal machine's signature and will speak to Forssell when he returns from international duty next week.

Moyes also wants Liverpool's Djimi Traore and Charlton's Paul Konchesky.

SECOND AXE FOR WIGLEY

STEVE WIGLEY is the latest victim of Southampton's clear-out after being sacked for the second time in six months.

His contract as youth director is not being renewed following Saints' relegation from the Premiership.

Wigley, who follows assistant boss Jim Smith through the exit, was fired as manager in December.



TERRY: So valuable

£50m tag for Terry

JOSE MOURINHO last night claimed John Terry is the most valuable player in the world - and that not even £50million could buy him.

The Chelsea boss rates Terry as better than the world record signing, £46m Zinedine Zidane of Real Madrid.

He was speaking as Chelsea and Sky One launched a new reality TV show, Football Icon, about a search across Britain for teenagers hoping to win a professional contract.

Mourinho said: "Better to produce quality than numbers. So if every 10 years we produce a John Terry then the work of our youth academy is done. He's worth £50m."

RESULTS AND FIXTURES

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL
AC Milan(3) 3 Liverpool.....(0) 3
Maldini 1 Gerrard 54
Crespo 39, 44 Smicer 56
65,000 Alonso 59
(AET. 3-3 after 90 mins. Liverpool win 3-2 on pens.)

TONIGHT'S FOOTBALL
(Kick-off 7.45pm unless stated)

FOUR NATIONS TOURNAMENT:
England National Game XI v Wales SP,
Rep of Ireland SP v Scotland SP

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL:
England v Czech Rep (Bescot Stadium).

EUROPEAN KOP FINAL

MAESTRO HE IS THE



VLAD ALL OVER: Substitute Vladimir Smicer fires in a brilliant drive to put Liverpool back in the final at 3-2 after all had seemed

OF THE thousands of banners that proudly turned a corner of the Ataturk Stadium into a replica of Anfield, one message from the Liverpool supporters stood out.

"The future belongs to those who dare to dream" it proclaimed.

Somehow it caught perfectly the essence of the spirit that brought the Merseyside club and their wonderful, fanatical fans here to the banks of the Bosphorus for this incredible Champions League triumph.

It has to be said that even those with the capacity to dream in technicolour would have found it hard to dare to dream of Liverpool winning this competition this season, never mind in the dramatic



David MADDOCK

fashion that it unfolded in this quite preposterous, impossible contest.

As they struggled past Austrian minnows Graz in the qualifying round, even contriving to lose the home leg at Anfield, the concern of most of their followers was not trophies, but survival.

Aristocrats

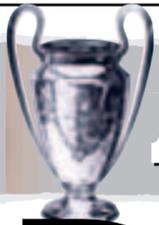
With Chelsea boasting riches beyond imagination and brand ManYoo's continuing licence to print money, keeping up with the Premiership aristocrats is hard enough, without the loss of your manager, star striker and what seemed the almost inevitable

departure of the skipper. Yet if there were blows that some feared could be mortal in the summer, then there was one event that at the time went relatively unheralded but was to prove significant beyond measure.

It was, of course, the arrival of Rafael Benitez.

If Liverpool have dared to dream this season, then it is their manager who has allowed that to happen. He is the dream-maker, he is the architect of what - no matter which way you look at it - was the miracle of Liverpool arriving in Istanbul as Champions League finalists.

Benitez has spoken of one day creating a new Anfield dynasty to match those imposing monuments carved in granite by Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley. Modestly, he admits he has no idea if it is



AC Milan **3** Liverpool **3**

AFT: LIVERPOOL WIN 3-2 ON PENALTIES

THE FAB 7

RAFA BENITEZ can now be ranked alongside the managers who made Liverpool legends in the European game after last night's incredible triumph.

And here's how the Spaniard's seven predecessors at Anfield fared against Europe's finest ...

RAFA SHOWS BOSS-PHORUS



Had to rebuild the club from top to bottom. Statistically, his record in Europe is far from impressive but he created a dynasty.

Bill Shankly (1959-74)
 EC P 18 W 8 D 6 L 4
FOR: 23 AGAINST: 22
 CWC . . . P 17 W 8 D 4 L 5
FOR: 29 AGAINST: 12
 UEFA Cup P 34 W 20 D 6 L 8
FOR: 53 AGAINST: 21
TOTAL: . . P 69 W 36 D 16 L 17
FOR: 105 AGAINST: 55



Three European Cups made Paisley the most successful manager in English football. Moved seamlessly from Keegan era to Dalglish era.

Bob Paisley (1974-83)
 EC P 41 W 27 D 4 L 10
FOR: 92 AGAINST: 34
 UEFA Cup P 12 W 8 D 3 L 1
FOR: 25 AGAINST: 9
TOTAL: . . P 53 W 35 D 7 L 11
FOR: 117 AGAINST: 43



Founder member of the Liverpool boot-room, he won the Championship and European Cup in 1984, but Heysel was a scar on football.

Joe Fagan (1983-85)
 EC P 18 W 13 D 3 L 2
FOR: 34 AGAINST: 8



Heysel meant Dalglish never tested himself as a boss in Europe, but he led Liverpool to the domestic Double in 1986.

Kenny Dalglish (1985-91)
 Did not manage in Europe



Led them back into Europe with a quarter-final place in the UEFA Cup in 1992, but failed to live up to the club's glorious past.

Graeme Souness (1991-94)
 CWC . . . P 4 W 2 D 0 L 2
FOR: 10 AGAINST: 8
 UEFA Cup P 8 W 4 D 0 L 4
FOR: 16 AGAINST: 8
TOTAL: . . P 12 W 6 D 0 L 6
FOR: 26 AGAINST: 16



Struggled to rebuild after Souness era but in UEFA Cup semi-final in 1997 his side nearly overturned a 3-0 first-leg defeat by Paris St Germain.

Roy Evans (1994-98)
 CWC . . . P 8 W 6 D 1 L 1
FOR: 18 AGAINST: 9
 UEFA Cup P 8 W 2 D 4 L 2
FOR: 6 AGAINST: 7
TOTAL: . . P 16 W 8 D 5 L 3
FOR: 24 AGAINST: 16



Greatest European moment came in Dortmund when an own goal earned a golden-goal victory over Alaves to win UEFA Cup in 2001.

Gerard Houllier (1998-04)
 CL P 22 W 9 D 9 L 4
FOR: 35 AGAINST: 20
 UEFA Cup P 33 W 17 D 10 L 6
FOR: 50 AGAINST: 25
TOTAL: . . P 55 W 26 D 19 L 10
FOR: 85 AGAINST: 45



lost by half-time YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE: Liverpool fans inspire their team in last night's amazing match Pictures: BRADLEY ORMESHER

possible for him... but he will try. Last night though, the Spanish coach placed his name in legend alongside those two great men.

By taking a very ordinary team - with several players who Benitez himself doesn't rate and will be quick to clear out in the summer - to a game of this importance, of this magnitude, he deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as those true giants.

And by somehow coming back from three goals down against mighty Milan, to take the match into extra-time and penalty kicks he has written his own little bit of history.

It is a staggering achievement, and those fans who outnumbered their Italian counterparts, and out-sang them too, know that

They know that the future of their club is in very good hands.

They were celebrating late into the night here, their flags flying proudly, and their red colours washing over Istanbul because the man who leads them is a truly great coach.

As much as anything, they were celebrating the idea that this is only the start. Benitez ably illustrated his ability as a coach in smashing with his Valencia team the Spanish duopoly operated by Real Madrid and Barcelona.

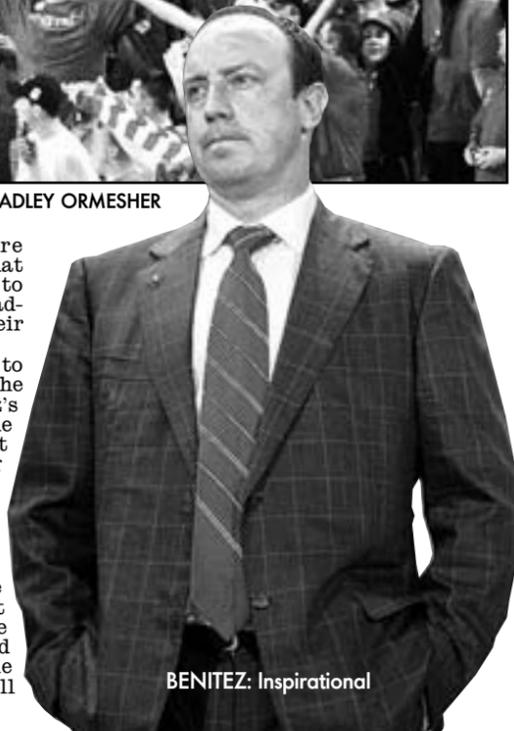
Measure

In taking a Liverpool team that contains some of the very average talent he inherited, improving them beyond measure, getting them past the champions of Italy and England and into a final against Milan, Benitez has shown that he can take on the cartel in the Premiership too. You could tell

in the carnival atmosphere amongst the Liverpool fans that there is a feeling this journey to Turkey is only the start of the adventure, because of where their manager might take them.

Watching last night, you have to say there is no limit to how far he can go. This isn't even Benitez's team, and as many as eight of the 18-man squad last night may not be here next season. His coaching ability and tactical knowledge has got them this far. Just think what he might do when he gets some money to spend.

There was another banner waving proudly throughout the second half last night, defiant even before that remarkable comeback got under way. It said "Rafa makes R dreams come true". He is the dream-maker all right.



BENITEZ: Inspirational