

## SPORTS

## Security

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opening game, one of the semifinals and the final, with St Petersburg's Kirov arena to stage another semi-final.

Luzhniki, given a five-star rating by UEFA three years ago, has hosted a number of major sporting events, including the 1980 Olympic soccer final and the 1999 UEFA Cup final.

Russia's Euro 2008 campaign, however, got to a rocky start 12 months ago when the RFU chiefs first gave up on the idea of bidding for the championship after failing to secure financial guarantees from the government at the first attempt.

But earlier this year, the Russian parliament finally approved a bill with 258 votes out of 450 in favor of the bid.

Experts estimate the project would cost Russian taxpayers at least 1.3 billion euros to stage the 16-team competition, but Chernov said they expect the tournament to generate over 70 million euros in profits.

RFU president Vyacheslav Koloskov views a joint bid from Austria and Switzerland as the main threat: "The bid from the two Alpine countries remains our biggest worry."

The Russians also acknowledge that security has become a major concern following tragic events in the capital just over a month ago.

More than 100 people died in a hostage siege in October after troops stormed a Moscow theater taken by Chechen guerrillas.

UEFA President Lennart Johansson has underlined security as a major issue in the bidding process, referring to serious crowd trouble before and after last month's UEFA Cup tie between Turkey's Fenerbahce and Panathinaikos of Greece and the Moscow siege.

"... There was also this terrible hostage drama in Moscow. That will also be taken into consideration for the final decision," Johansson was quoted as saying in Swiss-French newspaper *Le Dimanche* last month.

The Swede, however, later denied making such remarks and was quick to assure bidding nations that all the bids would be treated equally.

"Contrary to recent media reports, all bids for hosting of Euro 2008 will have the same chance of success when the final decision is made," he said in a statement from UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland.

No matter what has been said, Russian soccer chiefs remain confident about their country's chances.

"No country is immune from terrorists," former Russian Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin, who heads the country's coordinating committee for Euro 2008, was quoted as saying by local media.

"The main thing is that we must learn our lessons and prevent such threats in the future."

## Waugh misses out

SYDNEY — Steve Waugh has vowed to prove Australia's cricket selectors wrong for omitting him from their World Cup one-day squad.

The Australian test captain said he was disappointed and hurt when the selectors failed to find him a spot in their preliminary squad of 30 players for the tournament to be staged in South Africa and Zimbabwe next February.

But Waugh, who captained Australia to victory in the 1999 World Cup, said he had not given up hope of forcing his way back when the final 15-man squad is named later this month.

"I was very disappointed not to be considered in the top 30 players," Waugh told reporters on Tuesday. "I was disappointed and hurt by it and I want to try to prove them wrong."

Although Waugh remains in charge of the test team, he was dumped from the limited-overs side in February after 325



AUSTRALIAN CAPTAIN Steve Waugh carries a replica of the Ashes trophy after his team's innings and 48 run victory over England this week. Selectors have omitted him from Australia's World Cup one-day squad.

matches, including 106 as captain, when Australia failed to make the final of a triangular tournament they were hosting against New Zealand and South Africa.

## Macca sidelined

LONDON — Real Madrid midfielder Steve McManaman's chances of an international recall are remote, according to England's

assistant coach Tord Grip.

"As far as McManaman is concerned, he has never played a really good game for England," the Swede was quoted as saying in Tuesday's Daily Express.

The 30-year-old has 37 international caps but has been largely forgotten under coach Sven Goran Eriksson. His last appearance was as a substitute in England's final World Cup qualifier against Greece last October.

## Team NZ to testify

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — America's Cup defenders Team New Zealand will allow its members to testify at a hearing before the Cup Arbitration Panel this week into allegations of design impropriety by Seattle's OneWorld Challenge.

Team New Zealand will also make relevant documents and classified designs available to the Panel. The Cup's international jury ruled Tuesday the case brought against OneWorld by Italy's Prada and New York's Team Dennis Conner had been lodged within the appropriate time frame.

— Reuters, AP

## Jets: New York tumbles 26-20 to Raiders

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Raiders' 6 as time ran out.

"We lost a heartbreaker, a game we could've won, a game we should've won," defensive tackle Josh Evans said.

It was tough to take because the Jets were undermined by their usually proficient special teams, which cost them 10 points. A blocking breakdown caused a blocked field-goal attempt from 35 yards, and then came Morton's fumble, forced by a Marcus Knight hit.

"That's a 10-point swing right there," coach Herman Edwards said of the special-team blunders. "When you lose a game by six points, it's tough."

Morton, in his first punt-returning opportunity since Week 4 in Jacksonville, was nailed by Knight as soon as he touched Shane Lechler's 38-yard punt. There was a mad scramble for the loose ball, and it was recovered at the Jets' 12 by Raiders' Adam Treu. It was the Jets' first fumble in five games.

Three plays later, Zack Crockett bulled in from the 1, giving the Raiders a 20-10 lead with 2:32 left in the third quarter.

"It was really short," Morton

said of the punt. "I tried to catch it and go and he made a good play ... As soon as it touched my hand, he hit it, so he kind of timed it perfectly."

Moss, hurt on a second-quarter punt return, didn't return.

The loss snapped the Jets' four-game winning streak, and threw them into a muddled AFC East picture. It was a blown opportunity for the Jets (6-6), who needed a victory to move into a three-way tie for first place with the Dolphins and Patriots.

The Jets return home to face the Broncos (7-5) in a virtual must-win game.

"The good thing is we still have hope," Curtis Martin said. "We've still got a chance. It's not over."

The numbers don't show it, but the Jets' defense performed well against the top-rated Raiders offense. In the end, Rich Gannon (31-for-42) was too much, throwing for 342 yards — the first 300-yard passing performance against the Jets in 31 games.

Pennington, in his first Monday night appearance, was one cool customer in a two-touchdown performance, almost rallying the Jets in the final minute. The Jets, who fell behind 26-20 on Sebastian Janikowski's fourth



OAKLAND Raiders' Rod Coleman brings down New York Jets quarterback Chad Pennington in Monday's game. The Raiders won 26-20.

field goal with 1:12 remaining, marched to the Raiders' 35.

Then things fell apart for the Jets. Pennington (22-for-34, 265) was sacked for an 11-yard loss. With no timeouts remaining, he spiked the ball with four seconds left. Then, on a long heave to Kevin Swayne, Pennington was intercepted by Rod Woodson at the 6-yard line.

Why not throw into the end zone? Pennington said the loss of Moss affected that play, although he admitted, "It's frustrating. I love those situations and I didn't get it done. I have to learn how to manage that minute a little bit better."

Pennington had no support

from the running game. Martin began the night only 38 yards shy of the 10,000 mark but still has a way to go as he was held to 26 yards on 11 carries. But the Jets' receivers had huge games. Laveranues Coles had 158 yards on 10 catches. Wayne Chrebet, who had complained recently about his role, caught five passes for 66 yards and a touchdown. Running back Jerald Sowell scored his first career touchdown on a 6-yard reception.

It all looks good on paper but the Jets, who still have to look up to see the AFC East leaders, will remember this as the one that got away. ■

## History: Russia has proud soccer tradition

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Yashin, a member of four World Cup squads from 1958 to 1970, was also named European Footballer of the Year in 1963 and is still the only goalkeeper to have won the award. He died of cancer in 1990 at the age of 60.

The Russians first took up football in the late 19th century when it was brought into the country by English sailors and factory workers.

The first known team was formed in St Petersburg in 1886. By the early 1900s, football had begun to spread to Moscow and other Russian cities.

In 1912, Russia joined FIFA and also held their first national championship with four teams, Moscow, St Petersburg, Kiev and Kharkiv, taking part.

After the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, football gradually became the country's most popular sport, as the Soviets began treating football as the game for the working classes.

The first Soviet championship took place in 1922, but club sides only began competing more than a decade later, with Dynamo Moscow winning the inaugural tournament in the spring of 1936, Dynamo Kiev and Spartak Moscow finishing second and third.

The last two, however, went on to become the most successful Soviet clubs of all time, winning 13 and 12 titles respectively.

But the break-up of the Soviet empire at the end of 1991 also heralded the demise of Russian football.

The Russians were now missing many talented players from other former Soviet republics and have struggled in the international arena over the last decade.

They failed to qualify for the 1998 World Cup in France as well as for Euro 2000 and made a dismal showing at this year's World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea.

Russia coach Oleg Romantsev

returned home to widespread criticism following the side's quick exit from what was regarded as one of the easiest first-round groups.

But the Russians have made a flying start in the Euro 2004 qualifying campaign, winning their first two matches and their bid for the 2008 European championships reflects their hopes for a brighter future.

The only eastern European country to host the European finals was Yugoslavia in 1976 when the final round consisted of just four teams.

The Russians believe their turn is long overdue. ■