

Card waver Mourinho to meet managers' leader

Stuart James

John Barnwell, the chief executive of the League Managers Association, will remind Jose Mourinho that he should not be gesturing for players to be booked when he has a meeting with the Chelsea manager early next month. Mourinho gesticulated that Newcastle's Nicky Butt should have been awarded a yellow card at St James' Park on Wednesday night, three days after calling for Everton's Andrew Johnson to be booked during Chelsea's 3-2 victory at Goodison Park.

Barnwell does not believe Mourinho should be disciplined for his behaviour, although he admitted the Chelsea manager had overstepped the mark. "We are not calling for action to be taken," said Barnwell. "There will be private words behind the scenes, which I do normally if we dislike things. Waving [imaginary] yellow cards, whether it is flippant or aggressive, whether it's players or managers, is not acceptable. I will see Jose in a fortnight's time and no doubt we will talk about these minor issues."

"We deplore players waving [imaginary] yellow cards and through the managers and through the PFA [Professional Footballers' Association] I think we've had some effect [on players], and now you are

seeing very much less of that on the pitch. If we get one manager [waving cards], no matter how flippant – and I think Jose's was a flippant one – then that is something that is not desirable. But Glenn Roeder handled it beautifully. He got straight to the heart of it, the two managers spoke and, in his words, the thing has been put to bed."

The Wigan Athletic manager, Paul Jewell, is to take internal action against Lee McCulloch after the midfielder punched the Sheffield United captain, Chris Morgan. Morgan sustained cuts above and below a swollen right eye after McCulloch lashed out in the closing stages of Wigan's 1-0 defeat last Saturday.

McCulloch pleaded guilty to a violent conduct charge levelled by the Football Association and now faces a three-match suspension. The Scotland international will miss tomorrow's game with Chelsea at the JJB Stadium, the Boxing Day match at Manchester United and the trip to Watford on December 30.

With the Senegal striker Henri Camara today ruled out for six weeks with a medial knee ligament injury, McCulloch's absence comes at a bad time for Jewell because the midfielder can also play in attack. "Lee fully deserved to be charged. There was no escape," said Jewell. "It was all very well for Chris Morgan to say he

shouldn't have been charged, but it was right he was. It was a silly thing to do, irresponsible, and although it was out of character we'll be taking internal action against him."

Jewell is further angered by the FA's failure to take action against Juan Pablo Angel after the Aston Villa striker elbowed Morgan a few days before the McCulloch clash. On that occasion the referee, Mark Halsey, saw what happened yet took no action, which meant the FA was unable to act retrospectively.

"It's the inconsistency of the law that drives me up the wall," said Jewell. "Everyone could see Angel elbow Morgan, yet nothing happened as the referee saw it. What a load of nonsense that is."

He added: "The FA say they can't referee a game retrospectively, but if you are wrong and the evidence is there then you take action."

Jewell, meanwhile, has warned Arsenal they will not sign Leighton Baines on the cheap. The Gunners were this week reported to be planning a £4m transfer-window move for the England Under-21 international, but Jewell said: "£4m won't get Leighton Baines, that's for sure. If he is being talked about as a future England full-back then you can't get him for that. I'll never stop a player going to a top-four club, but I will at £4m. That's not on."

Year in review World Cup

Glitz and glamour turn English football into a game of other halves



Andrea Thompson

The writer who coined the term 'Wags' explains how Beckham, Tweedy and co have conquered the world

Summer 2006 belonged to the Wags. Unless you were lucky enough to spend the months between May and August in the most remote regions of the Himalayas you will know that "Wag" was the less than affectionate collective term for the wives and girlfriends of England's footballers during the World Cup.

Their all-night drinking sessions, marathon £60,000 shopping sprees and extravagant beauty regimes earned them unprecedented coverage across the globe. "These girls are hooligans with Visas," screamed the incandescent European press. Back home we lapped up a simmering rivalry which was played out as they sought to kill the empty hours between games sunbathing in bikinis – much to the delight of the paparazzi.

Everything the Wags did, ate and bought was dissected in pubs and offices across the country. Our fascination lay in watching a group of ordinary working-class girls plucked from obscurity playing out (and making a mess of) their new roles as ladies of leisure on the world stage. With nothing to do all day for three weeks but drink themselves stupid, spend their partners' money and gloat over their new-found celebrity status, they made addictive viewing.

"The public were obsessed because the media deliberately stirred up an obsession," said the PR guru Max Clifford. "To sell papers you need a continual stream of new faces and the Wags were perfect because they were ordinary girls whose lives were touched by the extraordinary lives of their partners. PR agents immediately saw their potential for ad campaigns and sponsorship once the World Cup was over. After all, footballers make things sell but footballers with a glamorous partner can earn more than double the money." But six months on, which of the Wags has capitalised? The first to fall was Abigail Clancy. The 20-year-old was dumped by Peter Crouch during the tournament after pictures were circulated of her snorting cocaine. She was ostracised by the Wags but her relationship is back on and she turned her "drugs shame" to her advantage with confessional interviews and modelling shoots in GQ, OK! and FHM.

Less can be said for Alex Curran, Steven Gerrard's other half, who was ridiculed for her frumpy World Cup wardrobe and questioned by police after a guest was assaulted with an alcopop bottle outside a restaurant. She has held on to her Daily Mirror fashion column by the skin of her teeth, but other offers have dried up.

Pictures of a bikini-clad Carly Zucker – a perfectly formed brunette and personal trainer – had the other Wags almost retching into their Chloë bags with jealousy. There were rumours of TV and modelling deals and a Christmas DVD. But Joe Cole's girlfriend has a lot to learn about what it takes to stay in the spotlight. Six months on, nothing has materialised and she has

been ousted by the other Wags for being a "shameless exhibitionist".

"Carly had huge opportunities but celebrity status doesn't necessarily flow from being a Wag," said Clifford. "It's not being on the celebrity platform but how you use it that's important. She didn't know how to publicise herself effectively and failed to surround herself with those who could PR her effectively."

But it has not all been bad news for the Wags. Which have made the most of their World Cup exposure? In third place is Cheryl Tweedy. "Cheryl saw her place cemented in Wag aristocracy and fast-tracked her celebrity status with her high-profile wedding to Ashley Cole in a Beckham-style ceremony in July," said Emma Draude, deputy managing director of the entertainment PR group Midas. Victoria Beckham rewarded Cheryl for her loyalty, friendship and deferential attitude with a personal introduction to the celebrity designer Roberto Cavalli, who made her £110,000 wedding dress.

But even Cheryl's successes pale beside Super Wag Coleen McLoughlin, Wayne Rooney's fiancée. "There's no doubt that 2006 has been Coleen's year. With more advertising deals and magazine features than ever she's now a multimillion-pound



Everything they did, ate and bought was dissected in pubs and offices across the nation

brand in her own right. She's a worthy successor to Victoria Beckham," said Draude.

McLoughlin has a £1.5m contract to promote Asda and, after losing a stone since the World Cup, secured a deal with Diet Coke. With an existing £500,000 contract with LG Mobile and an estimated £6m in further advertising deals including a £1.5m deal with Nike to promote its womenswear, her reputation as a shrewd businesswoman is fast replacing her former one as a shopaholic.

But no one came close to taking Victoria Beckham's crown. Desperate to distance herself from the other Wags, she ditched her trademark hair extensions, copied by wannabes, for a cutting-edge bob. Then came the release of his'n'ers fragrances in August and the publication of her "fashion bible" That Extra Half an Inch. She elevated herself to A-List status by securing a ticket to Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes's celebrity wedding of the year.

But according to Clifford, 2007 may prove tough for the Queen Wag. "Watching if she remains in the top spot next year will be interesting," he said. "Her husband has been the superstar of football for seven years but this is rapidly fading – he's no longer captaining England, which takes off a bit of his golden glow and will make her shine a little less. Everything she's achieved has been through him. The real test will be when she no longer has his status to rely on."

How the Wags were born

The term "Wags" became a buzz word which seemed to fit perfectly with England's shambolic World Cup campaign. It was first used in a newspaper on June 10, the day after the tournament started, but Andrea Thompson coined the phrase when writing for Grazia magazine in their edition of May 29. With a front page headline of "Exclusive: Secret Feuds of the World Cup Wives", the magazine highlighted the "Competitive Dieting Wardrobe Mania!" of the Wags, taking a keen interest even

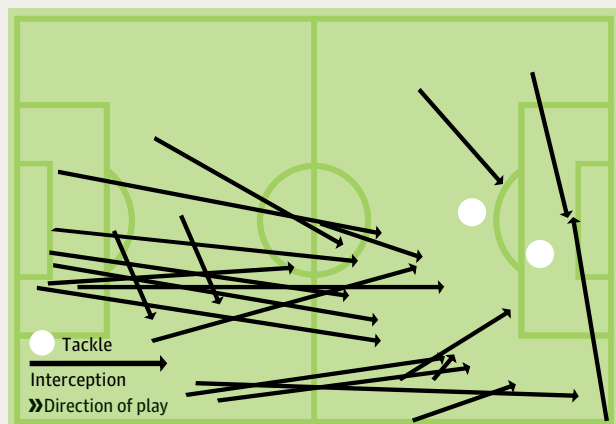
in Sabrina Keogh, partner of Jermaine Jenas. "Welcome to the competitive world of the Wags," Thompson wrote. "You think footballers take the World Cup seriously? They've got nothing on their womenfolk ... whose rivalry is so intense that boutiques have been pushed to breaking point by demands for show-stopping designer outfits. Not to mention the round-the-clock tanning, waxing and hair extension sessions the Wags' therapists are laying on. Forget out-playing the opposition – the name of the game here is how to out-bling it."



Jose Mourinho, the Chelsea manager, appealed for Everton's Andrew Johnson to be booked last Sunday Magi Haroun

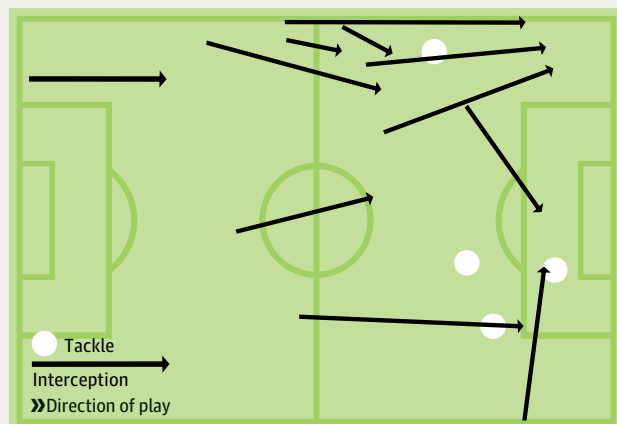
Analysis Why Chelsea need back-up for John Terry

Terry Man Utd 1 Chelsea 1 26|11|06



Interceptions and tackles Jose Mourinho admitted after his side's narrow win over Everton that John Terry's absence caused him selection problems. A look at Terry's normal workrate shows why. Against United the Chelsea captain made 23 interceptions and 11 headers, far more than any of his team-mates. Terry is a ball-winner, leaving the tackling to the midfielders in front of him or Ricardo Carvalho

Boulahrouz Everton 2 Chelsea 3 17|12|06

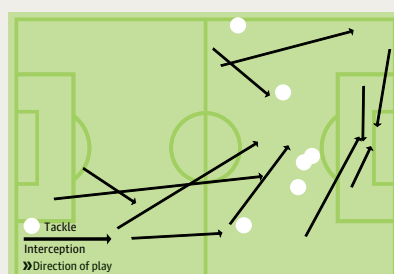


Interceptions and tackles With Terry injured against Everton, Mourinho had to play Khalid Boulahrouz in his stead. The Dutchman's tackles are spread across the pitch, showing him getting pulled out of position, and he is less of a rock than Terry: his interception tally is well down and none are from goal-kicks or long balls. Chelsea still won, but it took a late wonder goal from Didier Drogba

How Terry's absence means Carvalho has to switch roles

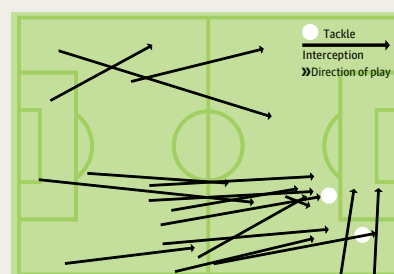
Carvalho is the man who has to pick up the slack in Terry's absence as a quick comparison with one of his performances alongside him and Boulahrouz clearly shows. When Carvalho is with Terry he performs the cleaning-up role, making more tackles and clearances; alongside Boulahrouz he effectively becomes Terry

Man Utd 1 Chelsea 1 26|12|06



Interceptions and tackles Carvalho makes relatively few interceptions compared with Terry but he always makes more tackles, many of which are crucial ones on the edge of the area

Everton 2 Chelsea 3 17|12|06



Interceptions and tackles When he played with Boulahrouz, Carvalho became Terry: with most interceptions and few tackles. Look at the similarities of these two graphics with those above

Defenders with defined roles

Chelsea concede so few goals because Terry and Carvalho have such well-defined roles: Terry heads and wins interceptions; Carvalho tackles and clears. Their stats from two of the season's biggest games illustrate this

Man Utd 1 Chelsea 1 26|11|06

	Terry	Carvalho
Headers	11	2
Passes	33	36
Clearances	1	6
Tackles	2	6
Interceptions	23	12

Chelsea 1 Arsenal 1 10|12|06

	Terry	Carvalho
Headers	12	8
Passes	31	30
Clearances	2	6
Tackles	3	7
Interceptions	23	17