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Sports World

With **LAKIS KONISTIS**

MARADONA BACK AS COACH

Diego Maradona has been officially named as Argentina's new soccer coach this week - a move that re-unites the former superstar with the team he led to the World Cup championship in 1986.

Maradona (48), will be making his debut as Argentina's coach on November 19th against Scotland. "Being the coach of the national team is an honor for me" he said. "I will do my best to succeed. We will work every day to make Argentina have a better national team day by day".

Although he remains a national hero for his exploits on the pitch, Maradona has received scrutiny for his appointment to the coaching position.

A five-time South American Footballer of the Year, Maradona is relatively inexperienced as a coach and has battled numerous problems with drug abuse and obesity in recent years.

"I am coming into a very

beautiful dream" he said. "My spirit is calm. I cannot ask for more. This is the best moment in my life".

Maradona replaced Alfio Basile, who stepped down for personal reasons on October 16th following a loss to Chile in the World Cup qualifying stages. One of Maradona's first moves was to name Javier Mascherano as the national team's captain, a position formerly held by Javier Zanetti.

"I want Mascherano to be my captain because I believe he is the Argentinian player who is closest to the idea I have about the Argentinian shirt- sweat for it, sacrifice for it, being a professional, being close to the teammate" Maradona said. "I will convince him. He will be my captain."

BETEZY BET OF THE WEEK

According to the boys from Betezy, this Saturday is the traditional last day of the four



"SPARTAN WARRIOR" RETURNS!

Boxing fans will be pleased to know that Bobby "Spartan Warrior" Antonakos will be resuming his boxing career this month.

The "Spartan Warrior" is scheduled to fight another Greek fighter called Jerry Spanidis on the Anthony Mundine vs Rafael Sosa Pintos on Wednesday night 12th November 2008 at the EG Whitlam Centre, Liverpool. Bobby Antonakos Vs Jerry Spanidis for the Junior Welterweight division title. Other fighters such as Peter Kazzi, Zac Awad, Jamie Withers, Adam Forsyth will also be fighting on the night.

Date of fight:

Wednesday 12th November 7:30pm

Venue: E.G. Whitlam Centre, Liverpool

Time: 7:30pm

Tickets: \$50

Bobby Antonakos' boxing record stands at 12 fights, 9 wins (3 KO's), 2 losses, 1 draw. Won the NSW Welterweight Title in February 2008 and is now aiming for a shot at the Australian Title next year!

Bobby Antonakos would like to thank his sponsors:

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day Flemington carnival and sees the running of The Emirates Stakes.

An even field will contest the race and Betezy spokesperson Drew Smith reports that punters are steering very wide in looking for the

winner.

This is hardly surprising given last Saturday's Derby saw a 100/1 shot get up and beat this column's tip WHOBE-GOTYOU. This was followed up with the marginal win of VIEWED at 50/1 in the Melbourne Cup.

The carnival has been very tough for the punters and given the size of Saturday's fields, my tip is to look out wide again.

BERRIES SIGNINGS CONTINUE.....

The West Sydney Berries are continuing their signings for 2009 and are pleased to announce the following new acquisitions for next season: Cameron Jones, Peter Peralta and Trinity Allen.

More announcements are to come.

A-LEAGUE MATCHES THIS WEEKEND

Friday 7th November
- Sydney FC (3rd) v Wellington Phoenix (8th)
at Sydney Football Stadium, 8.00pm.

Saturday 8th November
Queensland Roar (4th) v Melbourne Victory (1st)
at Suncorp Stadium, 7.00pm.

Sunday 9th November
Perth Glory (7th) v Newcastle Jets (6th),
Members Equity Stadium, 5.00pm.

Saturday 15th November
Central Coast Mariners (5th) v Adelaide United (2nd)
at Bluetongue Stadium, 7.30pm.



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