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## Ranieri

## Pearce

### FOOTBALL

By FRANK DALLERES

FORMER Chelsea boss Claudio Ranieri was last night installed as favourite to take charge at Manchester City in a day of managerial turmoil which saw two Premiership managers depart.

City yesterday sacked Stuart Pearce following a season of underachievement and at times explosive dressing room unrest, while Wigan manager Paul Jewell stunned fans by resigning just hours after steering the club to safety in Sunday's dramatic final round of fixtures.

Jewell, who cited health reasons for ending his successful six-year tenure at Wigan, was initially linked with replacing Pearce at City.

But Wigan chairman Dave Whelan strongly rebuffed suggestions Jewell would walk straight into another job having said he needed "a break from football".

A flurry of bets, meanwhile, saw Ranieri's odds slashed with bookmakers Ladbrokes from 16-1 to evens, with prospective new City owner Thaksin Shinawatra, the former prime minister of Thailand, thought to favour a high-profile appointment.

Ranieri's contract with Parma ends in June and the 55-year-old recently expressed a desire to return to English football.

He was sacked by Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich in May 2004

despite guiding the club to the Champions League semi-finals. One of the other leading candidates to take charge at City, former Bolton manager Sam Allardyce, is expected to be named Newcastle boss today.



Ex-Wigan boss Paul Jewell, right, has been linked with Pearce's City job Pic: ACTION IMAGES

## Blades chief vo take Tevez case to EU courts

### FOOTBALL

By JON COUCH

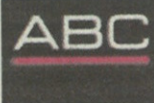
SHEFFIELD UNITED chairman Kevin McCabe has vowed to take the Premiership all the way to the European courts in a bid to seek justice over his club's relegation.

Just hours after his side lost the Premiership status, McCabe turned his attentions towards preparing a legal challenge over the League's decision not to impose a points deduction on West Ham for fielding Carlos Tevez and Javier Mascherano ineligible.

"My sole objective is to protect Sheffield United and I am prepared to go as far as is needed to do that," McCabe said.

"I feel cheated because yesterday's result was not the root cause of our relegation. If there is any justice in the land, we will be in the Premiership next season."

Asked how far he would be prepared to take the fight, he added: "Probably even going into Europe to the Human Rights Commission."



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