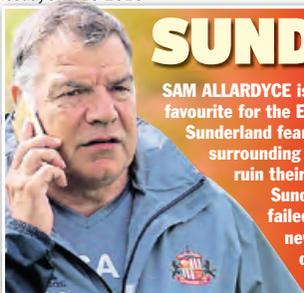


## Rodgers' Celtic are rocked by Gibraltar policeman

SEE PAGE 52



# SUNDERLAND FEAR SAM'S ENGLAND CALL

SAM ALLARDYCE is now the bookies' favourite for the England job – but Sunderland fear the uncertainty surrounding his future could ruin their season. Sunderland have so far failed to bring in any new signings, with a deal for Inter Milan full-back Davide

By Peter Edwards  
Santon collapsing last week. They have also been tracking West Ham striker Diafra Sakho but he is understood to be waiting to find out if Allardyce is staying. Sunderland had been hoping to finalise a deal for Rubin Kazan midfielder Yann M'Vila after his

successful season on loan last term but talks have stalled and Everton are now keen on the Frenchman. Allardyce, left, is the firm favourite to succeed Roy Hodgson with his old West Ham chairman David Gold becoming the latest figure to back him for the job. "I wouldn't hesitate to recommend him," said Gold, who chose not to

renew Allardyce's contract when he was boss of West Ham and replaced him with Slaven Bilic. "He is determined and ambitious. The most important thing is he's English." USA manager Jurgen Klinsmann and Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe also figure prominently in the list of potential candidates said to have been drawn up by the FA.

# RORY'S RANT



By Neil Squires

RORY McILROY has given his sport an almighty kicking by claiming its drug-testing is so bad he could take human growth hormone and "get away with it" – and that he would rather watch diving than Olympic golf.

Golf's controversial return to the Games has been turned into something of a joke by the withdrawal of 20 players – including the top four in the world.

And McIlroy did little to help the sport's reputation ahead of tomorrow's Open Championship at Troon, questioning whether golf was doing enough to justify its Olympic

TURN TO PAGE 55, COLUMN 4

● I could take drugs and get away with it...

● Olympic golf? I would rather watch the diving...

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