

USA, Sweden in semis

AFP, Foxboro, Massachusetts



The United States, with a goal from Abby Wambach, swept aside Norway 1-0 Wednesday to reach the semifinals of the Women's World Cup.

The defending champions now await the winner of Thursday's quarter-final between Germany and Russia, while Sweden, who advanced with a 2-1 victory over Brazil, will meet either 1999 runners-up China or Canada.

A powerful header from Wambach put the United States ahead for good in the 24th minute.

Following the felling of Cindy Parlow at midfield by Ane Stangeland, Cat Reddick swung a well-placed free kick into the box that Wambach viciously flicked to the far post. Goalkeeper Bente Nordby got a hand on it but could not stop the shot.

It was Wambach's third goal in the last three matches, and it followed smothering pressure by the Americans, who managed to make nemesis Norway look very average.

The Americans almost always had three players around the ball and never allowed the Scandinavian side to string together any passes.

It was a tough game physically for the Norwegians as well. Stangeland took a boot to the face from Parlow, and Trine Ronning had to leave the game after a hard tackle by Shannon Boxx.

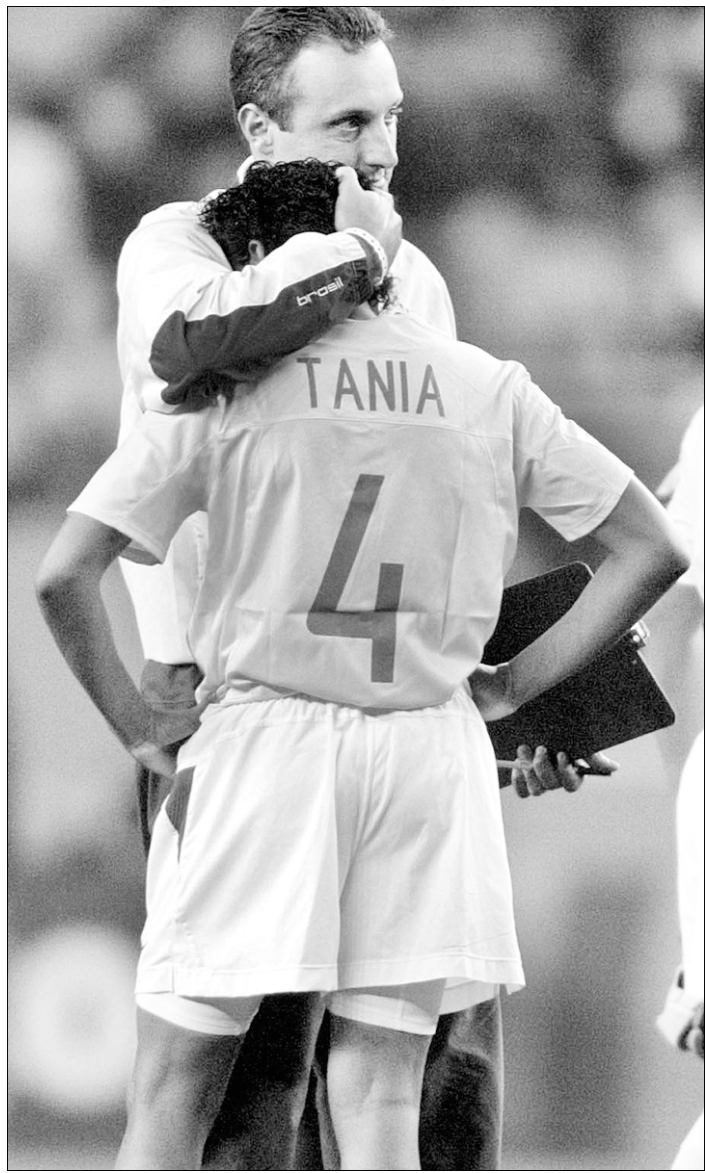
It could have been far worse for Norway, which was kept in the game by Nordby's work in the nets.

Displaying steel nerves, the veteran stood up Mia Hamm on a penalty kick in the 67th minute after a controversial award following a flop by Wambach. She stopped shot after shot, allowing her roundly outplayed teammates a chance.

Sweden's victory over Group B winners Brazil was not without

controversy. Malin Andersson struck in the 53rd minute to break a 1-1 deadlock, and put Sweden into the semifinals for the first time since the

inaugural Women's World Cup in 1991. "I thought we lifted up our game and lifted ourselves," Andersson said. "We wanted to make the semi-



A disconsolate Brazil player Tania is comforted by a team trainer after the loss to Sweden at the Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts on October 1.

finals and we knew we had to give an inspired effort."

But Brazil were left with a bitter taste, after an apparently clear penalty in injury time went uncalled when defender Sarah Call pushed Katia out of the way, preventing her from having a shot on goal.

The Brazilians protested but to no avail. "We believe it was a penalty kick," Brazil coach Paolo Goncalves said. "She had complete control of the ball and as she was shooting, she was tripped from behind. However, they didn't call it. That could have changed the game."

Malin Moström got the Swedes on top early when she threaded a cross to a waiting Victoria Svensson for the first goal at the 23-minute mark.

After substitute goalkeeper Sofia Lundgren felled Marta in the box, the ensuing penalty leveled the score a minute before the interval.

Lundgren was stepping in for Carolina Johnson, a game-time scratch.

Andersson's winner, a roaring free kick that eluded Andriea, came after Juliana topped Hannah Lundberg about 25 yards out.

Goncalves admitted that Sweden effectively prevented Brazil from finding their rhythm.

"It is a very difficult game," Goncalves said. "A very physical and difficult game for us, and for the young players on our team, some of them you see were even crying on the field. A very difficult game."

"We could have won the game, but couldn't get into a rhythm."

Swedish coach Marika Domanski-Lyfors said her players did exactly what they needed to do to win.

"We played a very good game today," Domanski-Lyfors said. "I think we played both tactically and technically well, like we should play against Brazil. We scouted them and knew they were a good team, but I think our team did a good job. It was hard (on us) to make it 1-1 at the half, but we were mentally strong in the second half to win the game."

Gang-rape probe Stars told to cooperate

AFP, London

Three Premiership stars accused of gang rape have reportedly been ordered by their club chairman to help a police probe or be sacked.

The players were told by the chairman that anyone proved to be involved in the claimed attack would be kicked out and effectively barred from the game for life, the Daily Mirror reported Thursday.

They were read the riot act at an astonishing dressing room showdown in which the chairman ranted at the squad for 20 minutes and the club manager threatened to resign.

If they refused to give DNA samples, they would be suspended. They were also ordered not to discuss the scandal on their mobiles or by email under threat of legal action.

"It was made plain the club was going to do whatever the police want them to do. The chairman feels strongly there are no mitigating circumstances on something like this," a source told the Mirror.

"There was complete silence as he told them that any player proved to be there on the night in question would have his contract terminated. The club would retain the player's registration, which they are entitled to do by law, preventing them from playing for any other club and effectively ending their careers."

"The chairman also said that if any player refused DNA testing on legal grounds, they will immediately be suspended."

"If they are advised not to agree to give DNA, and the club is made aware of that by the police, they will also be suspended."

Newspapers reported that three suspected players might have to appear before their 17-year-old accuser at a police identity parade.

The girl has claimed she was raped by five men and indecently assaulted by two others at the Grosvenor House Hotel, in Park Lane, London.

Schuettler sails

Tennis

REUTERS, Tokyo

Top seed Rainer Schuettler cruised into the quarterfinals of the 860,000 dollars Japan Open with a clinical 6-3, 6-2 victory over American Robert Kendrick on Thursday.

The German was too sharp with his returns and too quick around the court for Kendrick in a one-sided match.

He finally put his error-prone opponent out of his misery with a well-placed overhead smash after just 64 minutes.

Schuettler, sixth in the ATP Champions Race and aiming for a spot in the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup for the first time, will play Scott Draper next after the Australian upset German sixth-seeded Nicolas Pietrangeli 7-5, 6-2.

"Every point is important for me because if the other players play well they can kick me out of the Masters Cup," said Australian Open runner-up Schuettler.

"When I was growing up I always watched the Masters Cup on TV as a kid and I definitely want to be part of it this year."

Third-seeded Paradorn Srichaphan, still with an outside chance of qualifying for the prestigious eight-man tournament in Houston from November 8-16, beat Japanese wildcard Takao Suzuki 6-2, 7-6 to reach the last eight in Tokyo.

The 24-year-old Thai plays South Korean Lee Hyung-taik in the quarterfinals on Friday



PHOTO: AFP Russian Maria Sharapova stretches to make a return against Akiko Morigami of Japan during their second match at the Japan Open yesterday. The Russian teenager defeated Morigami 6-1, 6-3.

after the seventh seed overpowered defending champion Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark 6-3, 6-4.

Fifth seed Mark Philippoussis pummeled Croatian Mario Ancic 6-4, 7-5 under floodlights to reach the last eight.

The big-serving Australian has launched a late bid to qual-

ify for Houston after breaking a two-year title drought with victory in Shanghai last weekend.

"Obviously (the Masters Cup) is a goal but to be honest it's not my main focus," said the Wimbledon runner-up, whose career has been plagued by injuries.

'Security' series

FROM PAGE 13 beating Bangladesh 5-0 in last month's one-dayers.

"South Africa are definitely a tougher opponent than Bangladesh but our boys are very confident and I hope we keep the winning sequence," said Inzamam, who took over after Rashid Latif resigned last month.

Pakistan, who have lost 25 of their 36 one-dayers against South Africa, are likely to play the in form leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed who took 105 wickets for Sussex in England.

"Our bowling is our strength but we need to put runs on the board to supplement our bowling," said Inzamam.

Pakistan are also boosted by the return of express pacer Shoaib Akhtar who missed the one-dayers against Bangladesh as he was playing for Durham county.

TEAMS

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Mohammad Hafeez, Yasir Hameed, Yousuf Youhana, Younis Khan, Shoaib Malik, Abdul Razzaq, Rashid Latif, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Shabbir Ahmed, Umer Gul, Salman Butt, Faisal Iqbal

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Mark Boucher, Jacques Kallis, Shaun Pollock, Neil McKenzie, Jacques Rudolph, Robin Peterson, Andrew Hall, Alan Dawson, Makhaya Ntini, Charl Langeveldt, Andre Nel, Boeta Dippenaar, Herschelle Gibbs, Paul Adams

Umpires: Darrell Hair (Australia) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan)

Adam to retire, Graham isn't

Cricket

AFP, London

Surrey captain Adam Hoolioake is to retire from first-class cricket at the end of the 2004 English season, the club announced here Wednesday.

But there was better news for The Oval-based county when, in a separate statement, they said England batsman and Surrey favourite Graham Thorpe had signed a new two-year contract.

Hoolioake, 32, a medium-pace bowling all-rounder who won four Test caps and made 35 one-day international appearances for England between 1996 to 1999, including 14 as captain, has been profoundly affected by the death of his younger brother.

Ben Hoolioake, himself a Surrey and England all-rounder, died aged 24 in a car accident in Perth, Western Australia, in March 2002.

Adam, who to set off on a charity expedition Thursday on behalf of the Ben Hoolioake fund, said: "I have had a marvellous 14 years at Surrey and in the last seven years as captain, I feel we have achieved many things of which I am immensely proud."

"After much soul searching I have decided that 2004 will be my final year. I have many things that I want to do with my family, charity work with the Ben Hoolioake Fund and my business interests in Perth."

"I will continue to give everything I can to the club in the next 12 months, and in the years to come."

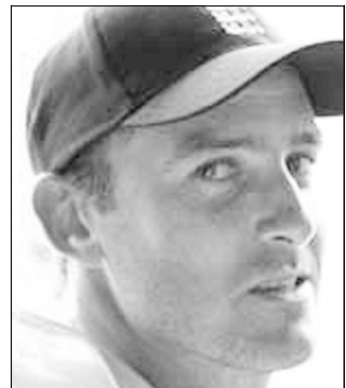
Surrey chief executive Paul Sheldon said: "We are very sad that Adam will be retiring at the end of next season as he has been an

outstanding captain and the most pivotal character in the club's success of recent years."

Hoolioake, like his brother born in Australia, made his Test debut alongside Ben in the fifth Test against Australia at Trent Bridge in

England selectors that he was available for the tour 2002-03 tour of Australia.

However, he marked his return to international cricket in style by scoring a century last month at The Oval against South Africa in England's series-levelling fifth Test



GRAHAM THORPE



ADAM HOLLIOAKE

1997. But it was in the one-day game where he excelled, captaining England to victory at the 1997 Champions Trophy tournament in Sharjah.

At Surrey, Hoolioake has led the club to eight domestic trophies in seven years including three county championship titles.

But Surrey's sadness at his retirement announcement was partly offset by the news that Thorpe, England's premier middle order batsman of recent years, was staying at The Oval.

Left-hander Thorpe, 34, briefly opted out of all cricket last season following personal problems caused by the collapse of his marriage.

These later caused him to go back on his assurance to the

club.

Thorpe, born in the Surrey town of Farnham and a one county man throughout a first-class career which began in 1988, said: "I am delighted to have signed a new two-year deal with the county with whom I have grown up with in cricketing terms since I was nine."

"I couldn't imagine playing anywhere else or ever playing against Surrey," added Thorpe, in England's Test squad for the forthcoming tours of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Proteas off

FROM PAGE 13

Some 20 commandos surrounded the players' dressing rooms before City XI captain Misbahul Haq won the toss and elected to bat.

Opener Imran Farhat, who played his last Test for Pakistan against Australia in Sharjah last year, top-scored for the home side with 64 with seven boundaries and three sixes.

Test discards Naved Latif, with 45 not out, and Faisal Iqbal, with 30, added 61 for the unfinished fourth wicket.

The 22-year-old Smith, who hit back-to-back double hundreds and finished with 718 runs in the Test series against England last month, put 72 for the first wicket with Herschelle Gibbs who made 34.

Smith then added 98 for the second wicket with Kallis before handing Farhat his wicket.

Neil McKenzie (33) and Mark Boucher (36) carried the Proteas to the winning target in 46 overs.

BRIEF SCORES

Lahore City Nazim XI 250-4 in 50 overs (Imran Farhat 64, Asim Kamal 44; A Hall 2-41) and South Africa 253-3 (G Smith 72, J Kallis 55; Imran Farhat 2-48)

Waugh talks

FROM PAGE 13

Waugh has been in brilliant form since making a career-saving century against England at the Sydney Cricket Ground in the New Year Test, having scored four centuries in his past seven Tests.

He can continue his march into cricket history by scoring a hundred at the WACA Ground in the opening Test against Zimbabwe starting next Thursday.

The Perth ground is the only Test venue in Australia where he has not reached three figures.

The 162-Test veteran admitted he did not know much about the Zimbabweans, but expected the Africans to put up a spirited showing.

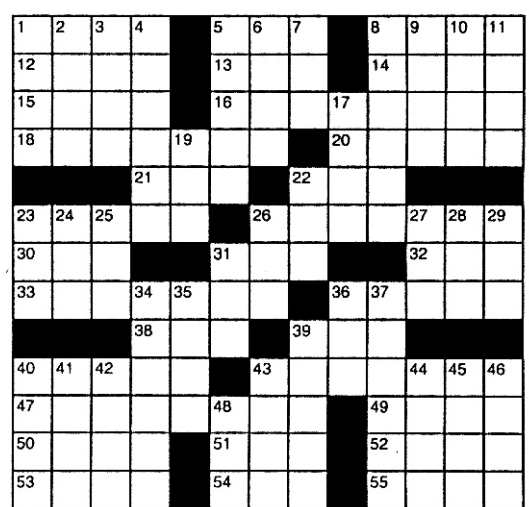
"I don't know a lot of their players, I know they have a good coach in Geoff Marsh (former Australian Test batsman and national coach) and a good bowling coach in Bruce Reid (former Australian Test fast bowler) and I like the way they play their cricket," he said.

"They are always very spirited and give 100 per cent ... and they have nothing to lose, so they will be a dangerous opponent."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Olymplan match-maker
 5 Toss into the mix
 8 Foolproof
 12 Senate employee
 13 Anil
 14 From square one
 15 Capri, e.g.
 16 Banner
 18 He served between James Grover
 20 External
 21 Succor
 22 Museum attractions
 23 Give rise to
 26 Neighbor of Georgia
 30 It's crude
 31 Request
 32 Peak position?
 33 Bankrupt
 36 Taps tooter
 38 Erstwhile acorn

DOWN
 39 Dine
 40 Radiant
 43 Italian seaport
 47 Pace
 49 Nastase of tennis
 50 Anger
 51 Blackbird
 52 Fast time
 53 Skunk's defense
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 4 Vacillate
 5 Needed liniment
 6 Active one
 7 Modern-day evidence
 8 Private greeting?
 9 Condo, e.g.
 10 Actress
 11 Basin access-ory
 17 Coed quarters
 19 10th anniversary gift
 22 Delugeous refuge
 23 Bawl
 24 Chart format
 25 The whole enchilada
 26 Cleo's slayer
 27 Kvetch
 28 Poorly unorigi-nality
 31 Diving bird
 34 Blackout lelon
 35 Goes way off course
 36 Wiretap
 37 Labori-ously difficult
 39 Old photo shade
 40 Spherical hairdo
 41 Incite
 42 Corporate emblem
 43 Micro-scope part
 44 Bread spread
 45 Pugilistic arena
 46 Trawler paraphernalia
 48 Bill



CRYPTOQUIP

P X D Y J Q Z G Q R U N Z A Q

V E X N Z R D U N P N J A Q

A X D K Q Z Y U V E Z K K Q E D

V A ' E V Y - B N G - B D G N A D U .
 Yesterday's Cryptogram: I'M NOT A BAD DISTANCE RUNNER NOW, BUT I HOPE THAT SOMEDAY MY SPRINTS WILL COME.
 Today's Cryptogram Clue: K equals P

The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



PHOTO: STAR State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman speaks to reporters during a function organised to mark the 10th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Sports Journalists and Writers Community at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.