

Dazzling Dutch outclass Germans

GOTEBORG, June 19: The Netherlands, the title-holders, stunned Germany with two early goals and beat the world champions, 3-1 Thursday, as both teams advanced to the semifinals of the European Championship, reports AP.

The Germans survived thanks to a 3-0 victory by Scotland over the Commonwealth of Independent States in a simultaneous game in Norrkoping.

Germany will play hosts Sweden in Stockholm on June 21, while the Dutch will meet Denmark in Goteborg in the second semifinal June 22. The Dutch and the Germans are favoured to meet again in the June 26 final in Goteborg.

"The Dutch deserved to win, and my thanks go to Scotland. I knew we could rely on them," said German coach Bert Vogts.

"I still have the feeling that we'll meet the Germans again," said Dutch coach Rinus Michels.

The Dutch won Group 2 with five points, while Germany placed second with three. Scotland and the CIS team finished with two points each.

With their three AC Milan-based stars, Marco Van Basten, Frank Rijkaard and Ruud Gullit setting the tone, the Dutch simply outclassed the world champions, especially in the first half.

The Netherlands produced the flashy soccer and deadly finishing that gave them the European title in Germany four years ago.

Rijkaard headed the Dutch into the lead in the fourth minute and Rob Witschge made it 2-0 in the 15th.

The Germans, badly outplayed in the first half, came back in the second through a goal by Juergen Klinsmann in the 53rd.

But Dennis Bergkamp's second goal of the tournament in the 72nd minute ended the German rally.

Thousands of orange-clad Dutch supporters among a crowd of 37,725 at Ullevi stadium celebrated noisily the victory over the bitter rivals.

"It is not every day that we are able to overcome Germany's resistance in such a way. It was a top game, the Dutch team in the first half played with a quality that I have rarely seen," Michels said.

"The Germans didn't have any grip on our game in the first half," he said. "The first two goals came from standard situations, at crucial moments and gave us a lot of support."

The first Dutch goal came after a free-kick by Ronald Koeman. His long pass into the area was met by Rijkaard, whose looping header caught Bodo Illgner wrong-footed and sailed into the far end of the net over the German goalkeeper.

The second goal also came after a free-kick. Koeman

slipped, a short pass to Witschge, who unleashed a right-foot drive from 30 metres that blasted past the German wall into Illgner's low left corner.

The stunned Germans were hurting in their reshuffled defence, particularly on the flanks.

Vogts had to do without Stefan Reuter and Guido

The Germans kept charging forward and the Dutch got a lucky escape a few minutes later. Klinsmann connected on a long Brehme cross with a header. Rijkaard got his own head into the ball's path, and the deflected shot shook the Dutch bar.

"We knew they would try to give us problems in the second half and they did — they were

the second half but I think the half-time score in the Scotland match also helped my players." "I can only say thank you to Scotland for playing the game." He hoped to get another chance against the Dutch in the final.

"I can't say what the side will be to play Sweden but I hope we can play Holland again," he said.



German striker Juergen Klinsmann tries to shoot past Dutch captain Ruud Gullit in Thursday night's European Championship soccer match at Goteborg, Sweden. —IHT

very close to pulling level," Michels said.

It became an even contest for a while as the Germans finally began to play in the aggressive style that gave them the World Cup title two years ago.

Haessler, Germany's outstanding man in the tournament, tested Breukelen from 25 metres (yards) but his shot went just wide.

The Dutch were far from finished, however. Aron

Winter, who came in for Frank de Boer in the 62nd, shook off Sammer With a brilliant move, sprinted down the right and sent a perfect cross to Bergkamp, whose header went past a helpless Illgner.

The goal made the game the highest-scoring of the tournament so far and took the wind out of the German team. The Dutch coasted to a big victory that was sweet revenge for a 2-1 loss in the World Cup second round two years ago.

The Dutch beat Germany 2-1 in the European Championship semifinals in 1988 in Germany before going on to win the title.

VOGTS PRAISES DUTCH

Vogts sung Holland's praises and damned his own side afterwards. "Congratulations to Holland on a superb match. They were magnificent, especially in the first half," he said.

"But I cannot say the same about my own side. We were not good in the first half. Sammer made a difference in

Dutch manager Rinus Michels said he knew it was only a matter of time before they started scoring goals.

"My players replied in the best way possible to the people who had doubted us. As a coach I couldn't ask for more. We were exceptional in the first half. We knew Germany would come back at us in the second half but we resisted and finished well. But Germany are still a very strong side," he said.

Van Basten said he was delighted at the way they had played. "We are really pleased to have beaten Germany in style. I have not had much luck personally but the important thing is we keep winning," he said.

Van Basten had a perfectly good goal disallowed for offside against the CIS and hit the German bar tonight.

Thomas Doll, a second half substitute, was confident Germany could qualify for the final.

True, Holland were better than us in the first half but we were the better side in the second half and just when we were on the point of equalising they broke away to score a third," he said.

"But I still think we can reach the final."

However, German defender Jurgen Kohler warned it would be wrong to underrate Sweden.

"They could be as hard to beat as Holland, especially with their fans behind them," he said.

Scottish nail in CIS coffin

NORRKOEPING, Sweden, June 19: Scotland, with nothing to show after two fighting displays against Holland and Germany, went out of the European Championship, reports AP.

Scotland's loyal supporters add two to cheer early in the first half from Paul McStay and Brian McClair and a Gary McAllister penalty seven minutes from time completed a magnificent night.

The CIS, a team without a country to call home, needed to win to stand any hope of going into the last four.

But the ex-Soviet, who had held both Holland and Germany to draws, had not counted on Scottish grit and determination not to slide out of the tournament without a goal.

Unlucky to go into the match with nothing to show from their two previous games, Scotland's excellent win salvaged a good deal of pride.

McStay put Scotland ahead in the sixth minute when he got hold of a knock on by Davie McPherson from a corner. His shot from the edge of the area caught Dimitry Kharin off his line, bounced against the post and back in off the keeper as he dived.

McClair doubled the score in the 17th minute when his long shot from the left slipped under Kharin and in at the far post.

The CIS seemed prepared to accept their fate without much of a fight, and there was little for the meagre 14,000 crowd to cheer until the final stages.

Two low and dangerous shots from substitute Igor Koryev in the last 20 minutes had Scottish goalkeeper Andy Goram forced into his first diving saves.

Scotland added a third from the penalty spot in the 83rd minute as big defender Kakhaber Tekhadadze hauled down nippy winger Pat Nevin on the left. Gary McAllister stepped up to slot it home and finally claim the reward his efforts have deserved throughout the three matches.

ships with a flourish here Thursday by beating the CIS 3-0, reports AP.

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CIS coach Anatoly Byshovets had no doubts as to the reason for his side's defeat. "We lost because we were not strong enough in attack and we didn't take our chances," he said with disarming candour.

Scotland manager Andy Roxburgh admitted he was sorry to see the CIS disappear. "I actually apologised to their coach afterwards," he said. "But it was only politeness. Really. He knows there are no favours in football. I wouldn't expect any and nor I think would he."

"I'm very sad though," Roxburgh added. "It's been a fantastic team and they have an incredible record. That's the first time they've lost in the entire campaign, and they were in a tough qualifying group with Italy. They didn't lose to the Dutch or the Germans, and I think they expected to walk safely into the semifinals."

"But unfortunately for them they came up against a Scotland side who never give up. You can knock us down but we just bounce back. We've never lost three games in a row, at least as far as I can remember, and it certainly wasn't going to start tonight."

He concluded: "To be honest, we won because we got a couple of breaks for a change, as didn't get against Germany but to be honest we played for the breaks. We couldn't play as openly as against the Germans because I think a few of the players left their legs in the German game. It was a super-human effort."

Captain Richard Gough said: "The last two games I have come out from a very quiet dressing room. Tonight I've come out of a very noisy one. I think that says it all."

"I don't think they expected us to play with so much passion. I know Mikhailichenko wasn't happy with us and he told me so when I changed shirts with him at the end in what little English he speaks."

Tyson takes no chances

NEW YORK, June 19: Convicted former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson has been placed in solitary confinement at his own request, worried about reaction to a nationally televised interview that criticised fellow inmates and prison officials, reports AP.

The New York Post reported in Thursday's editions that Tyson made the request, citing a source close to Tyson who told the paper that the former boxer was worried about "dealing with the reaction inside to what he said."

The interview was to be broadcast Thursday night. Indiana prison spokesman Kevin Moore confirmed Tyson was placed in the "administrative segregation unit," but would not speculate about whether it had anything to do with the interview.

"He asked to go in and we agreed it was a good idea," Moore said. "He'll come out when we feel it is safe."

In the interview with Ed Bradley on the CBS network for the show "Street Stories," Tyson said his fellow inmates taunt him for being a convicted rapist and prison guards have "the dying thumb" on him.

In a rambling, sometimes confused interview and the first since going to jail, Tyson claimed he was just a normal guy who had sex with a woman who said it was OK.

"And that's why I'm in trouble, because I'm normal and slightly arrogant," he told Bradley. "A lot of people don't like themselves, and I happen to be totally in love with myself."

"And people take ... offence to that."

He also said he has had trouble with certain prison guards who want to "put their foot on somebody's neck" but aren't good enough to "clean my toilet."

"I know I'm not the most popular inmate in here because, you know, I mean, I stand up for what I believe in," he said.

IAAF slams court ruling on Reynolds

LONDON, June 19: The US court ruling in the Butch Reynolds case could cause 'chaos' and lead to the suspension of all American 400-meter runners from the Barcelona Olympics, an IAAF official said Friday, reports AP.

"The IAAF is disappointed with the decision," said Istvan Gyulai, general secretary of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world governing body for track and field.

The IAAF sees it as challenging the competence of the ruling of an international sports body. It is a decision which may lead to chaos. What would happen if the jurisdictions of all 200 member federations challenged the IAAF's ruling. It might lead to the suspension of all US 400-meter runners at the Olympic Games.

Reynolds, the world record-holder in the 400 meters, was suspended by the IAAF in 1990 after testing positive for steroids.

A federal judge in Columbus, Ohio, on Friday ruled that Reynolds can compete in the Olympic trials in New Orleans this weekend.

The IAAF has vowed to keep Reynolds out of the Olympics.

'94 World Cup schedule June 29

ZURICH, June 19: FIFA, world soccer's governing body said today the match schedule for the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States would be announced here on June 29, reports Reuters.

FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said the programme for the June 17-July 17 finals, including the venues for the opening ceremony and the final itself, are to be fixed at a morning meeting of the 1994 World Cup Organising Committee.

Platini may quit

PARIS, June 19: Michel Platini will quit as coach of France's national soccer team following their elimination in the first round at the European Championship, a newspaper reported Friday, reports AP.

L'Equipe, the French sports daily, said that "in the next few days the coach will announce his decision to leave as head of the French team."

No sources were cited. France, undefeated in qualification and which went unbeaten for two years, was knocked out in the first round of the finals Wednesday with two lacklustre draws and a humiliating 2-1 loss to Denmark.

Commentators have been unanimous in criticising Platini, a star player for France in the 1980s, for the lack of offence shown in Sweden.

Asked by L'Equipe whether he intended to resign, Platini was quoted by the newspaper as saying, "It's not a subject at this time. We'll see later, but there isn't any urgency."

But L'Equipe said that Platini will make his decision known publicly before the school vacation begins July 10.

Platini has coached the team since November 1988 and compiled a record of 16 victories, 8 draws and 5 losses.

Argentines win

BUENOS AIRES, June 19: Gabriel Batistuta scored twice in a 10-minute second half spell as Argentina beat Australia 2-0 here Thursday in a friendly football international.

Lineker leaves on a losing note

STOCKHOLM, June 19: Gary Lineker, described admirably as the king of the penalty area by England manager Graham Taylor, abdicated his throne on Thursday — one goal short of ensuring himself a place in soccer's history books, reports Reuters.

For six games Lineker was stuck on 48 goals, one behind England's all-time highest scorer Bobby Charlton.

The prince charming of English soccer took the stage at the European Championship finals for a farewell performance where he was expected to claim the record outright.

But the modest and unassuming former Tottenham striker, who has never been booked or sent off in his career, was substituted 18 minutes from the end of his final game against Sweden.

Time had run out for him. When he looks back, he will see his missed penalty against Brazil in May as the costliest blunder of his career.

Charlton remains England's top goalscorer, with 49 in 106 internationals, although Lineker finished with a better scoring rate with 48 from 80.

Another Tottenham stalwart, Jimmy Greaves, struck 44 goals in 57 games in the 1960s.

Lineker, modest to the end, said on Thursday: "I have had such a great career I am not going to let the last few games cloud that."

"I was disappointed this morning, but once the dust settles I will be able to look back and remember all the good times rather than the bad and I know they will outweigh the bad ones."

"I don't feel humiliated at being substituted. I was surprised and disappointed, but the record was the least important thing of all."

The most important thing was the success of the team. It

was a far bigger disappointment going out of the tournament."

Charlton paid Lineker a glowing tribute. "Natural goal scorers don't come every day," he said. "He's got a great temperament and he's a marvelous goal scorer. He is all that's good about the game."

England manager Taylor is one of Lineker's greatest admirers.



LINEKER...unlucky

There is no doubt in my mind Lineker will have the title of the best goalscorer this country has ever known," he said.

"He is a scorer of the highest order. It is disappointing that he has not broken the record, but if you look at his whole career it has been excellent."

Lineker, who has had the added pressure this year of his baby son George suffering from leukaemia, confirmed on Thursday he would not go back on his decision to retire from English league and international football at the age of 31.

Lineker, who began his career at Leicester 14 years ago and has plied his trade for Everton and Barcelona, joins a Japanese club next year in their fledgling league.

His career high point was a hat-trick against Poland in the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico which put England into the second round after a disastrous start. He finished the tournament as top scorer.

"That game changed my career. If I hadn't scored those goals I probably wouldn't have played for England again and would not have gone to Barcelona," he said. "The Mexico World Cup was the highlight of my career."

He honed his penalty area skills to the point where he could always be relied on to score, provided teammates created the chances.

"To succeed you have to be ambitious, intelligent enough to escape a marker or a sweeper. Goalscoring is about gambling and taking chances," he said.

"People will say: 'Oh, he was lucky, he was in the right place.' But it's always about being in the right place at the right time."

That is something Lineker turned into an art form.

Coach cool to Kapil caper

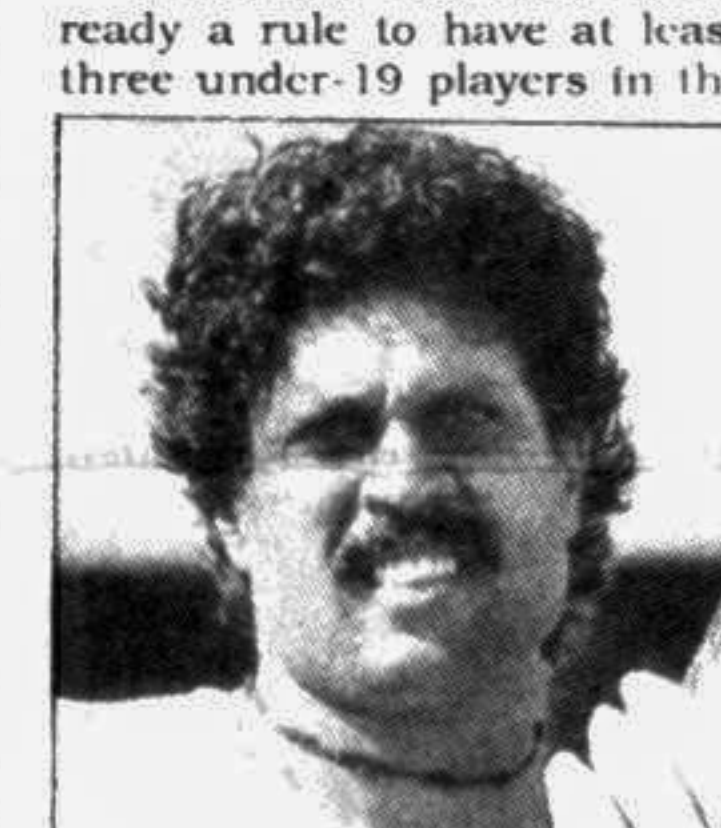
CALCUTTA, June 19: Star cricketer Kapil Dev will join East Bengal football club on Monday, but the club's coach, Amal Dutta is not very enthusiastic about the ace all-rounder joining his team, reports PTI.

According to a spokesperson of Dev Features, Kapil Dev would land in the city on Monday to register with the club, but it is not yet certain whether he will don the famous red and yellow jersey of the club in their next Super Division league match on June 23.

The star all-rounder had expressed his willingness to play football in the city to keep himself fit, which drew immediate response from East Bengal officials who wanted to add glamour to their side after suffering heavy losses to arch rival, Mohun Bagan in the local football transfers.

The East Bengal coach, Amal Dutta, however has a problem at hand. "I really do not know where to fit him if he really wants to play," he said.

The coach will be really hard pressed in the club's second match especially after their disastrous season opener yesterday when they were held to a goalless draw by Tollygunge Agragami.



KAPIL...coach's worry

final sixteen for every match, and now if the officials insist on including Kapil also it would be another problem. "It is not possible to fight a championship like this," he added.

He said it is common in European clubs to have stars from other disciplines, but that is absolutely for the club to gain some goodwill. "But if the officials insist, I can play Kapil for ten to fifteen minutes in some exhibition matches."

Another problem for East Bengal is the exceptionally high number of players who have signed for the club. According to the coach, at the moment they have 42 players and Kapil would be the 43rd player to register for the club this season.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Retinue

6 The thinker?

11 Use plastic money

12 Singers Frankie and Cleo

14 Intimidate

15 Novelist Sigrid

16 Prototypical love boat?

17 "Idiot box"

19 Mound stat

20 — a man with...

22 Frozen Wasser

23 Start of the XVth century

24 Staff members?

26 Bomb-measuring unit

28 San Francisco's — Hill

30 Pick a target

31 Height

35 Breathes

laboriously

39 Clumps

40 Feedbag morsel

42 Take to the waters

43 Year, in Mexico

44 He hit 61 in '61

46 Actress Thompson

47 Raid

49 Good friend (Fr.)

51 Tease

52 Sam Malone, e.g.

53 Sap

54 Iberian land

13 Dry-cleaning woe

18 Actor Alastair

21 Camp array

23 Half a '60s quartet

25 French coin

27 Jazz job

29 Expand

31 Sultor

32 Made leather

33 Worshipful one

34 Dumbo's wing?

36 Deli meat

37 Whom Simon met

38 Murdered

41 Poitier role

44 Bamako's country

45 Daytime TV offering

48 Harlem room

50 FDR's "Blue Eagle"

Solution time: 28 mins.

WICKS SIL WWO
ADLAI ADO AHA
SOUND FLUTTER
TEEPEE ACRE
AFT SOT ASHES
SLEW WYATT
PYRITE SEESTO
DEREK SHAH
HIRED XED UPS
AMOS REDACT
SPUTTER TOTOS
TENANT EVERT
OLD BOS DERBY

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39 40 41 42

43 44 45 46

47 48 49 50

51 52

53 54

CRYPTOQUIP

A Y P X P C P O Y P A D G T X

C D Q D Z V T X O P G N P Q Z P L

Y V G Z T O V D X G P X Z N D G Z

Q D O L G

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals C

The Cryptoquip 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.