

Sport



England vice captain and wicket-keeper Alec Stewart fixing the stumps as Australian opener Michael Slater starts his way back to the pavilion after being bowled by off-spinner Peter Such on the fifth and final day of the third Ashes Test on July 6. Australia held on to a draw.

—Star TV photo

No respite for Marseille

FONT-ROMEU, France, July 7: Olympique Marseille's mountain retreat in the Pyrenees has given little protection to the European champions against match-rigging allegations that have shocked all France, reports AFP.

The high altitude training was meant to be a tonic in the short break between one tiring but victorious season and the start of a new campaign.

But the atmosphere has been poisoned by accusations that Marseille defender Jean-Jacques Eydelie and general manager Jean-Pierre Bernes tried to bribe three opponents to throw a league match.

Bernes was booted by dozens of on-lookers as he was taken into Valenciennes court-room on Tuesday to be charged with corruption and kept in detention like Eydelie who was charged last week. Five people have been charged in all.

With headlines like "Cheats" being spread across the covers of magazines like France-Football, and even Prime Minister Edouard Balladur accusing soccer stars of showing a "disgraceful spectacle" to the country's youth, it is no wonder the Marseille squad have appeared to be training with lead in their legs.

The team had their first warm-up match on Tuesday against Nantes. It finished in a dull 0-0 draw. New team coach Marc Bourrier had difficulty finding good words for the performance, which came less

than three weeks from the start of the new French season.

"Despite all the disruption we have had to face since arriving at Font-Romeu, the players showed spirit and the desire to affirm their ability," said Bourrier who took over just as the bribes storm was blowing up.

But the charging of Bernes over the payment of 250,000 franc to three Valenciennes players will only increase pressure on the team.

As general manager, Bernes is the right hand man to Marseille's outspoken president Bernard Tapie. The higher the charges creep up the club hierarchy, the stronger will be the outcry for action.

French league president Noel le Graet has admitted there is a "gangrene" in French soccer to be expurgated, matters are now so serious that the judiciary will have to carry out the treatment.

Marseille have faced accusations in the past of pressuring opponents before matches. But investigations have always failed to uncover evidence and the league has been limited to making warnings.

Tapie, a former minister who is no stranger to controversy in his dealings, has continually denied any involvement in the bribery affair. But he faces growing problems defending his side against a flood of damaging statements over the allegations.

Boro Primorc, who was Valenciennes coach last season, has admitted that he went to see the investigating magistrate. Some press reports have

said he was worried after being offered money to take the blame for the bribes.

The referee of the Valenciennes-Marseille match which the French champions won 1-0 has also entered the storm.

In an interview with Le Sport magazine published Wednesday, Jean-Marie Venel expressed surprise at the way Valenciennes played the match and at an injury to one of the Valenciennes players offered the money.

Christophe Robert came off early in the game, officially because of an injured knee. But Venel said he saw the tackle concerned. "When I was told that Robert had a twisted knee I was stupefied," he declared.

Robert was the first Valenciennes player charged for accepting money that was found in the garden of his aunt. Robert's wife has also been charged.

"When a team is fighting to save its skin in Division One it runs till the final second. I only saw Jacques Glassmann running on the Valenciennes side."

Glassmann was also one of the three players approached. But he was the one who revealed the affair to his team managers before the game started.

Marseille have been assured that they will be able to start the new season in the First Division they have won for the past five years. But they face a tough fight on and off the field to finish the campaign there.

Graf will have to take three weeks off

BONN, July 7: Newly crowned Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf faces a three-week break from tennis because of a foot injury which has plagued her since the French Open, her doctor said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Hartmut Krahl said he would ask the world number one to take a long rest and "let her legs dangle."

He said they would work out a recovery plan for her after an examination next week for inflammation of a ligament and a membrane around a bone in her foot.

"She has no problems in normal movement, but when she puts strain on the foot the pain comes back," her doctor said.

He added that Graf should have had at least three weeks off after winning in Paris, where she had pain-killing injections, instead of the two-week break allowed by the calendar.

"The break before Wimbledon was too short for her to recover. If it hadn't been Wimbledon, I'd have urged her not to take part," Krahl added. "But Wimbledon is the most important tournament for a professional tennis player."

Graf's father said she had insisted on playing despite his advice not to and that she had taken pain-killing tablets before the Wimbledon final against Jana Novotna.

"That shows how much Wimbledon means to her. If it had been any other tournament she wouldn't have played," he said.

Lewis-Morrison bout not so far away

NEW YORK, July 7: Minor details are still being worked out for a title defence by World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis of Britain against American Tommy Morrison, a promoter's spokesman said on Friday, reports Reuter.

The bout is likely to be held in Las Vegas in October said Mike Boorman, a spokesman for Dan Duva's New Jersey promotion firm main event.

"There are some details to be worked out, albeit minor stuff, but it's still stuff that you never know," Boorman said, adding that promoters hope to be able to make an official announcement soon.

"That's the direction we're heading. We're trying to do it but it's not absolutely done," he said.

Lewis had been expected to meet fellow Briton Frank Bruno this autumn but that fight apparently now will be pushed back.

Clouds over the Universiad

BUFFALO, New York, July 7: Lack of interest, a dearth of sponsors, fear of terrorism and a government wrangle over Libyan athletes have cast a shadow on the World University Games even before they start, reports AFP.

Now, many citizens in this sports-mad city are just hoping Buffalo escapes the 11-day event, which starts on Thursday, with its reputation and finances intact.

"Buffalo is such a great sports town, and this area doesn't need any black eyes" said Tom Campbell, a local sports aficionado who helped develop a Buffalo sports hall of fame. "I'm fearful that's what the Games will be."

For the past three years, Buffalo has sent its bills to the National Football League Super Bowl.

They came back runners-up each time, but the Bills are still a huge draw here.

Their 80,000-seat rich stadium is the site of Thursday evening's opening ceremonies, which are to feature Grammy-winning pop singer Natalie Cole and country singer Kenny Rogers.

So far only about 35,000 tickets have been sold to the ceremonies, and sales for the sports events are low too.

Part of the problem, Campbell said, was lack of marketing. These are the first student Games, the second-largest such event after the Olympics, to be held in the United States, and many Americans are unfamiliar with them.

"It's like having a party and not sending out any invitations," Campbell said of the lack of local advertising for the event.

Jay Horwitz, 00-owner of a Buffalo sports bar where fans can gather to drink and watch sporting events on television, said: "I had never heard of the Games. I was excited at first. I don't think anything like this is going to come to Buffalo again."

"But I don't think the city

did a very good job promoting the games." Lack of money might account for that.

The Games attracted a single one million dollar sponsor, New York Telephone, and had to scale back their budget by 40 per cent, to 33 million dollars, halfway through the planning stage.

Organizers had to borrow 900,000 dollars recently to cover expenses, and pay out hundreds of thousands to buy time on the cable sports channel ESPN, the only US television coverage the Games will get.

The bombing of the World Trade Centre this spring and the arrest in New York of a group of men charged with plotting to blow up police and transportation targets in American have also set Buffalo on edge.

"It's scary," said New York state police, inspector Salvatore Valvo. "It brings it home that these things do occur in America."

"No country is immune to terrorist attacks. If terrorists want to stage an incident, why not do it at an international athletics event?"

Africa Sports to play friendly with Amazulu

ABIDJAN, July 7: Africa's top football club, Africa Sports of Abidjan, are to play a historic friendly against South African side Amazulu in Durban on August 15, reports AFP.

The winners of the match, the first between teams from the two countries, will lift a Unity Cup, officials from both clubs said here today.

David Dlamini, chairman of Amazulu, described the game as "the biggest sporting event for the oldest league club in South Africa."

Africa Sports are holders of both the African Cup Winners' Cup and the African Super Cup.

Bruguera breezes past Karbacher

GSTAAD, Switzerland, July 7: Sergi Bruguera claimed an easy victory in the Swiss Open here on Tuesday in his first match after last month's Grand Slam triumph, reports AFP.

Bruguera, the reigning champion and top seed, beat German Bernd Karbacher 6-4, 6-0 in the first round, then defended his controversial decision to skip Wimbledon.

"I didn't even watch much of it on television," said the Spaniard, ranked number five in the world. "It's too boring. There's a serve, a return, and then maybe a miss. A point is over in two seconds. I don't like the grass style too much."

Bruguera said he spent the first two weeks after winning the French Open slowly coming to the realisation he had claimed a major title.

"There was a lot of stress to disperse," he said. "I watched my final against Courier twice on video. I've fulfilled my tennis dream and I'm happy with what I have accomplished."

He was joined in the second round at the Alpine resort here by second seed Thomas Muster, who beat Argentine Martin Stringari 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Masur and Richard Fromberg will play singles, while the Wimbledon champions — Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge — make up the doubles team.

Bruguera insists he is not going to let his Paris success change his outlook on tennis. "I'll keep trying to play my best. I'll play hard, but if I lose, what can I do?"

RESULTS

Singles, 1st round: Thomas Muster (Austria) beat Martin Stringari (Argentina) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1. Marcos Ondruska (South Africa) beat Guillaume Marx (France) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. Rodolphe Gilbert (France) beat Olivier Delaitre (France) 7-6 (8/6), 1-6, 7-6 (7/3). Sergi Bruguera (Spain) beat Bernd Karbacher (Germany) 1-4, 6-0. Markus Zoccke (Germany) beat Renzo Furlan (Italy) 4-6, 6-4, 6-1. Jason Holtzenberg (Australia) beat Stephane Simian (France) 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 6-2.

Moon retains WBC crown

SEOUL, July 7: South Korean Moon Sung-Kil retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-flyweight title with a hard-fought split decision over Argentina's Carlos Salazar in their 12-round title match on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Two judges scored the fight 116-112 and 116-111 in Moon's favour while the third had it 115-114 in favour of Salazar, who briefly floored the champion in the last round.

Bleeding profusely from a cut above his left eye suffered in the second round, Moon broke the balance in the eighth by successfully landing a series of punches to Salazar's face and body.

But seconds after the start of the 12th round, Salazar briefly sent the champion to the floor with a counter punch to the face. Moon rose to his feet quickly and resumed his attack.

It was Moon's ninth title defence since capturing the title in January 1990, and took his professional record to 20 wins, including 15 knock-outs against one defeat.

After tragedy Zambia is back on map

By Elias Nyakutemba

Tragic memories, grief and even anger still linger in Zambia since the country lost its entire national soccer team two months ago in the Gabon air disaster. Remarkably, reports, Gemini News Service, Zambia has recovered quickly enough to assemble a new team. It is making a dramatic move aimed at getting back into the Africa and World Cup qualifying series.

Even as Africa and the whole sporting world continue to mourn with Zambia the loss of all 17 members of its national soccer team, efforts to rebuild the national side are already paying off. The team was killed in a plane crash in Gabon in April — the worst in African soccer history.

The pace of reconstruction is so vigorous some Zambian soccer experts are predicting surprises for teams still in the Africa and World Cup races. Davy Sakala, Times of Zambia chief sports writer, says: "We have discovered gold from the disaster — that, painful as it is, there was a lot of hidden talents, some which may well be better than what we lost. That is our hope and strength."

The new bunch comprises 22 mostly young and inexperienced players. They were selected in May from a two-week series of trials involving 60 players from scores of clubs. About 24 coaches and several Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) officials were involved in the final selection.

So far, the high morale among Zambians seems justifiable. The lads' performance in three international friendlies against the formidable Malawian national team, just before leaving for a four-week training stint, seemed to surprise even the experts.

It was perhaps only by sheer luck that Zambia tied one game, lost another and then wrapped up with a heart-warming 4-2 win at Lusaka's Independence Stadium — just a stone's throw away from the graves of their fallen colleagues at the northern tip of the stadium — where they never lost an international match. In

Brondby, Denmark their performance seems to have raised more hopes than real worries at home. The new Zambian team also crushed a better organised, better equipped Danish Amateur team 4-1.

Later, with South African-based Shadreck Biemba in goal and promising strikers, David "Abedi" Mutale, Linos Makwaza and Doughlous ("Double") Mwamba, the Zambians held host Danish top side Brondby 3-3 in what some commentators have described as "a stimulating in-



FORMER COACH SAMUEL NDLUVU Will he be recalled?

ternational friendly." But the road to stardom, not dissimilar from the last Olympic performance in Seoul where the team stunned the world by beating Italy 4-0, will not be an easy one. Acting national team coach Fred Mwila said: "Our major problem is how to get the lads blended, to transform their different styles into one formidable and cohesive force."

Many are playing together for the first time. There are other obstacles: One soccer fan said: "They have been training

quite hard. They will be fit, but fatigue could set in. There is also the element of lack of confidence and whether they can withstand the intensive pressure which goes with international games."

Others are, however, optimistic that such logistical problems can be easily overcome. Said enthusiast Haggai Muzeya: "Consider the spirit of revenge [of their colleagues' death], the need to be singled out as a star and the natural flair in many of them and you will understand why it could be a much better team than pundits think."

Moral and even financial support, so far, seem lesser worries. Acting FAZ chairman Winson Gumbo said the training in Denmark was free while international and local funding appeared to be growing. The government of President Frederick Chiluba has set up a public trust and memorial fund to beef up finances.

Said Eddie Hamakowa, vice chairman of the Trust Fund: "So far we have K170 million. The bulk is mainly from local corporate bodies, the Asian and the Muslim communities. There is also \$20,000 at the Central Bank donated by ZAL Holdings (a multinational firm) and some individuals."

Trust Fund accounts have been opened on request in New York, Tokyo and London, where substantial amounts are already said to have been deposited. Hamakowa said Coopers and Lybrand is doing the auditing and coordination with the banks involved "to ensure accountability at no fee."

Even so, Hamakowa said a lot more would be needed to prop up the new team and to look after the welfare of 30 bereaved families. "We are talking about 150 or so children,

their mothers, their education and shelter for a period of over 13 to 20 years, and that takes a lot."

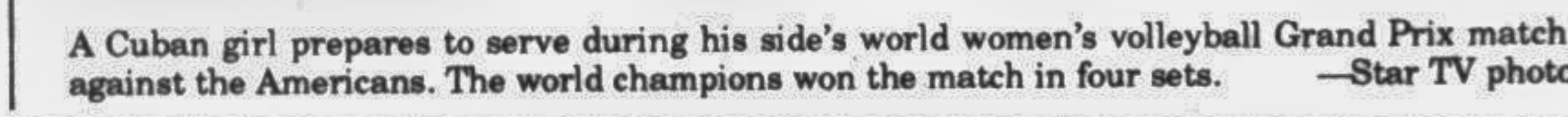
There seems to be little doubt in Zambian minds that the future of soccer remains as bright as ever, if not better. Many are already predicting a win against Morocco in the World Cup qualifying tussle on July 4, barely a week after the team's return from Denmark.

"Tell you what," one enthusiast said. "Those Moroccans, the South Africans and the Senegalese after them are in for big surprise. I tell you the secret is that they knew the fallen heroes' styles, but are in the dark about who is gonna do what and in what position." According to FAZ, a final selection is to take place on the team's return from Denmark. A new Zambia 11 and a B side are to emerge. FAZ is also toying with the idea of forming an under-23 side to be on standby.

Veteran British coach Ian Porterfield, amid protest from some quarters, is to help Mwila drill the team as technical adviser, under a contract paid for by the British government. Some want Samuel Ndlovu, the coach who made the Zambian team into a continental force, to groom the new squad. But he is not popular with the FAZ.

As Gumbo, the FAZ chief, put it: "From the ashes of Libreville will rise a stronger team to see us to both the Africa and World Cup finals, despite the setbacks." —Gemini News

About the Author: ELIAS NYAKUTEMBA has worked with Zambia Information Services since 1974. He also contributes to regional newspapers, magazines, and national radio.



A Cuban girl prepares to serve during his side's world women's volleyball Grand Prix match against the Americans. The world champions won the match in four sets. —Star TV photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Liniment's target, 5 Cambridge sch., 8 Everett or Lowe, 12 Natural satellite, 13 Fuss, 14 Have no tolerance for, 15 Vain, shallow sort, 17 Actor-Novello, 18 Irish county, 19 Grave, 21 Wilbur's steed, 24 Lindstrom or Zadora, 25 Last few notes, 28 Hyacinth holder, 30 Dine, 33 George's brother, 34 Element No.5, 35 Jackie's second mate, 36 Prohibitionist, 37 Tackle box item, 38 Agree-ment, for short, 39 Eagles' org., 41 Trans-action, 43 Subterranean chambers, 46 Shuts tight, 50 Verdi opera, 51 En route, 54 Cicatrix, 55 Enjoyment, 56 Logician known for his diagrams, 57 Terrier type, 58 Rubber-tree plant remover, 59 Lip DOWN, 1 Rock concert, Solution time: 21 mins.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers. The clue is: Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ON FRIDAY, THE SODA MACHINE IN THE ARMY MESS WAS OUT OF COMMISSION.

CRYPTOQUIP DWUP KWU WUX GH KWU IOGKIXRP I KRFRP H UZZ, DRI WVI IQVFK GCK GH QVZKUF? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ON FRIDAY, THE SODA MACHINE IN THE ARMY MESS WAS OUT OF COMMISSION. Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals H 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.