

Stardom awaits Baggio



ROME, Apr 29: More is expected of Roberto Baggio, the European footballer-of-the-year, than perhaps any other player at this summer's World Cup, reports Reuter.

His soccer-loving Italian compatriots are hoping the small, nimble attacker, will lift their team to its fourth World Cup triumph while millions of fans across the globe hope that his class will make the tournament one to remember.

With Dutchman Marco van Basten injured and Argentine Diego Maradona out of condition, soccer is desperately short of gifted individuals who can thrill the crowds.

Baggio, deadly from set pieces and a fine passer and dribbler of the ball, has the ability to prove that soccer can still be the beautiful game it was when Pele led the Brazilians to three world titles between 1958 and 1970.

"In a game which is increasingly uniform he is one of the few who can tip the balance," said former French international Michel Platini, whose number 10 shirt Baggio has inherited at Juventus.

The year 1993 was a triumphant one for Baggio with national coaches pulled by FIFA naming him as the world's top player.

The 27-year-old also picked up a winner's medal for the first time in his career as he inspired Juventus to victory in the UEFA Cup.

These triumphs helped silence critics who had - the strength of character to exploit his talents to the full.

A practising Buddhist, Baggio had to fight back from a serious knee injury which almost wrecked his career before it had started.

One of eight children, he

was brought up in the small northeastern Italian town of Caldogno.

As a teenager he made a name for himself with local club Vicenza in the Italian Third Division, the team where 1982 Italian World Cup hero Paolo Rossi began his career.

First Division Fiorentina signed the teenage prodigy but Baggio tore cruciate ligaments in his knee in his final appearance for Vicenza and spent the best part of two years on the sidelines.



ROBERTO BAGGIO

It was during that lonely battle for fitness that he converted to Buddhism.

"I had suffered a serious injury and needed something deeper than the Catholic religion," Baggio recalled recently.

"Today Buddhism helps me control my mind," he added.

The unconventional Italian dedicated his European player-of-the-year award to Daisaku Ikeda, head of Soka Gakkai, a Japanese lay Buddhist organisation.

His pre-match ritual in-

cludes prayer recital and the Juventus captain wears a colourful armband bearing ideograms spelling out the Japanese for "we must win."

Baggio's reputation grew at Fiorentina and he came to international prominence just before the 1990 World Cup in Italy when Juventus paid a then-world record 13 million dollars to sign him.

The deal brought rioting Fiorentina fans onto the streets in Florence, the protest spreading to the nearby training centre where Baggio and his Italian team-mates were based.

Baggio proved his abilities with one of the outstanding goals of that World Cup, a superb solo run and chip over Czechoslovak goalkeeper Jan Stejskal.

However, it was not a regular for Italy in a tournament which ended with the disappointment of semifinal elimination.

He subsequently struggled to adapt to life at Juventus, once provoking a scandal when he refused to take a penalty kick against former club Fiorentina.

But his career has blossomed in the past two seasons and he has become the focal point of Arrigo Sacchi's Italian team.

His importance to the team was underlined when injury forced him to miss last month's friendly defeat by Germany. Without Baggio, the Italians had little to offer in attack.

The pressure on Baggio at the World Cup will be enormous and the competition comes when his wife is due to give birth to their second child.

But helped by the serenity he derives from his faith, the little Buddha would take his place among the World Cup greats.

18 for Europe in '98 WC

VIENNA, Apr 29: Europe could get more places in the World Cup finals from 1998 through inter-continental play-offs, European Football Union (UEFA) president Lennart Johansson said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Speaking after a UEFA congress at which he was re-elected for a second four-year term Johansson said Europe could have as many as 16 to 18 teams in the 1998 finals in France.

"If you like betting, you could put quite a lot of money on the fact that there will be 32 teams in France in 1998," Johansson told a news conference.

International Football Federation (FIFA) president Joao Havelange suggested last month that the number of teams in the World Cup finals be increased from 24 to 32 to satisfy growing demands, particularly from Asia and Africa, for more places.

Johansson said that, in the past, the number of European countries had always been cut to meet the demands from other continents.

But, even if you give the other continents an extra place each, there could still be four places not distributed geographically," he said.

These places could be decided by playoffs, with the strongest nations coming through. Europe could end up with more places because we are the best."

Europe will have 13 of the 24 berths at this summer's finals in the United States. Africa, which has just had its allocation increased from two to three, is already considering demanding more and Asia wants a third place as well.

Turning to club matters Johansson said the much criticised champions' league in the European Cup had produced enormous benefits to European soccer.

He said the revenue to UEFA had risen in the past two years from 9.9 million Swiss francs to 72 million and the figure was likely to double next season when the Champions' league is extended from eight to 16 teams.

Johansson said most of the money was being redistributed to European countries and that the poorer ones were getting considerable benefits.

UEFA treasurer Jo Van Marle said: "The Champions' league is the most important financial source for the future development of soccer in Europe."

The UEFA congress approved the admission of Israel, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Macedonia as full members bringing the number of nations in UEFA up to 49.

NZ, Japan level

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Apr 29: New Zealand's top-ranked player Brett Steven scored a four-set victory over Yasufumi Yamamoto Friday to lift the Kiwis into a 1-1 tie with Japan after the first day of the Asia/Oceania Davis Cup second-round tennis match at Pioneer Stadium, reports AP.

Steven, who is ranked 78 in the world, defeated Yamamoto 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7-3). The Japanese No. 2 player is ranked only 320nd.

Shuzo Matsuoaka, the top-ranked player on the Japanese team, earlier defeated New Zealand veteran Kelly Evernden 6-2, 6-2, 6-7 (2-7), 6-4 in the opening singles match.

Matsuoaka, ranked 114 to Evernden's 785th, held off a strong finish from the New Zealander, who now plays only part-time on the men's tour.

Strong-serving Matsuoaka dominated the first two sets but then allowed Evernden, who was playing his 50th Davis Cup match for New Zealand back into the contest.

Evernden rallied from 1-4 to 4-5 in the fourth set, but then dropped serve to lose the match.

Saturday's doubles will pit Steven and Evernden against Thomas Shimada and Ryuso Tsujino, with the reverse singles to be played Sunday.

The winner of the match will qualify for a World Group play-off in September.

Wimbledon prize money increased

LONDON, Apr 29: World number one Pete Sampras will earn 345,000 pounds sterling (\$517,500 dollars) if he retains his Wimbledon men's singles title this year following a 12 per cent rise in overall prize money, reports Reuter.

Sampras collected 305,000 pounds (\$457,500 dollars) for beating fellow-American Jim Courier in last year's final.

Little ale & no percussion

NEW YORK, Apr 29: Beer is likely to be sold inside stadiums during World Cup soccer matches across the United States this summer, reports Reuter.

The downside is that the fans may be drinking it behind bars and deprived of their drums and trumpets.

World Cup chairman Alan Rothenberg told Reuters in a wide-ranging interview on Thursday that an alcohol sales policy was likely next week and he expected most venues would allow the public to buy beer during matches.

"All we can do is make our recommendation which will not call for an alcohol ban, we don't believe that's necessary or appropriate," he said.

"I think what we're going to recommend is that no sales take place after half time."

The subject caused a furore earlier in the year when Rothenberg sent a letter to the nine venues recommending they ban the sale and consumption of alcohol before and during matches as a preventive measure.

One leading beermaker and World Cup marketing partner slammed that idea as "un-American".

Rothenberg said another controversy over the erecting of security fences around pitches had yet to be resolved in venues where local police wanted them installed.

The organising committee

and FIFA are adamantly opposed to fencing to separate the field from the stands. We have made that abundantly clear to each and every venue.

Rothenberg said that ultimately in the United States the jurisdiction for public safety was up to police.

"We have been able to persuade the local police, we think, in six of the communities that fencing is absolutely counter-productive. It isn't just a question of atmosphere. We think it's unsafe compared to no fencing."



"So far we have not been successful in persuading the other three. We hope to be able to do that within the next few weeks. We would strongly advocate no fencing at all."

"We think it's a monstrous over-reaction by some local police who maybe read headlines of things that happened around the world at soccer matches," said Rothenberg.

Rothenberg said the only argument for fences was to

prevent fans rushing on the field — which was nowhere near as serious as the risk of being crushed against fences.

Ninety five Liverpool fans died at Sheffield's Hillsborough Stadium on April 15, 1989 in a crush before an English FA Cup semifinal against Nottingham Forest.

"I think if you're treated like an animal you behave like an animal, if you're treated like a human being you behave like a human being. They put animals behind fences, they don't put human beings behind fences," said Rothenberg.

The venues concerned are Chicago, scene of the opening match between reigning champions Germany and Bolivia that is expected to attract a global television audience of 1.5 billion on June 17, Dallas and San Francisco.

"The law enforcement and fire department are on one side and the World Cup is on the other. We have different priorities," said commander Jack Seamon of the Chicago police department that handles security at special events.

"We're sticking firm and so are they."

Seamon, speaking in a telephone interview, said the police would also be taking a tough line on fans trying to bring things into the stadium, including the musical instruments beloved of many fans.

Brazil warm-up

RIO DE JANEIRO, Apr 29: Brazil have arranged World Cup warm-up matches against Honduras and El Salvador, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Brazil will take on Honduras on June 8 in San Diego and play El Salvador in Fresno, California, four days later.

The Brazilians will arrive at Los Gatos, where they will be based during the first round, on May 26, the CBF said. They will travel to Edmonton for a game against Canada on June 4.

Brazil's opening Match in the World Cup is against Russia on June 20. They have been drawn in World Cup Group B, which also includes Cameroon and Sweden.

Costly song!

HAMBURG, Apr 29: Steffi Graf won 60,000 marks (\$35,300 dollars) in damages on Wednesday from a rock band who labelled her in a record, reports AFP.

Die Angefahrenen Schulkinder claimed the song, brought out in 1992, was acceptable satire but a Karlsruhe appeal court ruled it was crude money-making.

The song contained the lyrics: "I want to make love to Steffi Graf, just like her father did it a thousand times before." Graf's lawyer said the money would go to charity.

No joy for Irish, Italian fans

NEW YORK, Apr 29: World Cup organisers announced on Thursday the sale of a limited number of tickets and dashed the hopes of thousands of Italian and Irish fans desperately seeking to support their teams, reports Reuter.

World Cup chairman Alan Rothenberg told a news conference some 450,000 tickets would be sold from May 1 after being released by world body FIFA, sponsors and soccer associations but five first round matches were sold out.

They were Italy v Ireland and Norway in New York, Argentina v Greece and Nigeria in Boston and the clash between neighbours Belgium and the Netherlands in Orlando.

"No (more) tickets will be available for these matches," said Rothenberg, adding that no individual tickets were being sold for semifinals, the third place play-off and final.

"We expect again the response will be overwhelming," he said. Earlier offers, sold as packages, were snapped up and US organisers have already sold more tickets than were available at the last World Cup in Italy in 1990.

Prices ranged from 25 dollars for the cheapest first round ticket to 140 dollars for top category quarter-final seats.

Dermot Brangan, press officer at the Irish consulate in New York, said many fans, unable to buy tickets at face value for Ireland's game against Italy, would stay home.

"It will probably mean the

number of Irish fans coming over will be down to about a third of what we anticipated," he said. "The type of numbers — 20,000 plus — that we were talking about is just not going to happen."

"I expect the vast majority of fans will stay at home in Ireland and watch the games in the big marquees, that's where the 'crack' (atmosphere) is going to be."



"I'll imagine the bars here will do good business but they'll all be people who live locally. I don't think they'll be expecting many visitors from Ireland."

Rothenberg said the number of tickets, available to US callers through a telephone hotline starting on May 1 and on May 3 for overseas callers, was extremely limited.

The number for overseas play, and Los Angeles, where the US team play two of their three first round matches, had the greatest number of tickets still on offer.

Rothenberg stressed this was not because the little-fancied US team was unpopular

but simply because the 100,000-plus seat Pasadena Rose Bowl, venue for the July 17 final, was the largest of the nine stadiums.

Chicago, venue for the opening match between champions Germany and Bolivia on June 17, New York and Washington's RFK Stadium had the fewest tickets still available.

Rothenberg said tickets would be limited to a maximum of 10 per caller, in an attempt to keep out scalpers while allowing school teams and families to attend together.

"It's clear that the profile of the US soccer-going public is that of a family audience — at least four or five and usually more," said Rothenberg.

"We had to pitch it high enough for a family and yet not so high that it was an open door for scalpers."

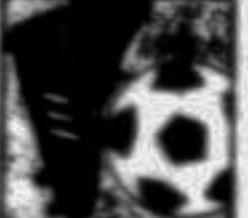
Rothenberg, himself a lawyer, said the reselling of tickets at more than face value was not a crime in much of the United States but World Cup organisers had adopted limited measures to try and prevent tickets being resold.

He pointed out that no tickets had been printed yet so anybody offering them, if not an authorised agent or a World Cup approved operator, might be "frankly very suspect."

Rothenberg said specific plans had also been drawn up to prevent the counterfeiting of tickets.

"Obviously I cannot tell you what they are because if I did they won't work," he added.

Beckenbauer not amused



PARIS, Apr 29: Angry Franz Beckenbauer finally spoke out on Thursday over the "incomprehensible decision" to make Bayern Munich play their last three Bundesliga matches in eight days, reports AFP.

Though he saw the reason for a replay of their 2-1 victory over Nuremberg last week when a wide Thomas Helmer back heel was given as a goal, he was fuming over their new schedule.

May 3 is the new date for the fixture, cancelled after video evidence, permitted in Germany tough outlawed in international football, clearly showed there had been no goal.

Instead of being two points ahead of Kaiserslautern with two games to go, the teams are level pegging with Munich having a game in hand.

However, Helmer was far from downcast by the decision.

Further problems for Beckenbauer came in midweek, when German coach Berti Vogts refused to release key players Helmer and Lothar Matthaus from Germany's trip to the United Arab Emirates. Both players will play Bayern

four matches in 11 days. Freiburg, in the relegation zone and two points and a place below Nuremberg, are angry their rivals have a chance of increasing their tally.

Bayern Munich start their three-match run-in on Saturday with a tough trip to UEFA Cup semi-finalists Karlsruhe, while Kaiserslautern host Borussia Dortmund.

Eintracht Frankfurt, hard on the heels of fifth-placed Bayer Leverkusen for a UEFA Cup place, host Hamburg. Leverkusen entertain 1992 German champions Stuttgart.

In Spain, Barcelona return to the bread and butter of league football following their midweek thrashing of FC Porto in the European Champions Cup semifinal.

The favourites to win the May 18 final against AC Milan lie two points behind Deportivo La Coruna with three matches to go.

The quality of Barcelona's 3-0 victory over Porto with two goals from Hristo Stolechov and another by Ronald Koeman would imply they should have won the league by a street.

Yet Barcelona, who host Sporting Gijon on Sunday, may

have to upstage the table-toppers on the last day, as they did to Real Madrid during the last two seasons, if they are to win their fourth consecutive title.

In Italy the last day of the season sees a host of UEFA Cup and relegation issues still to be decided.

Foggia and Napoli and Roma and Torino face each other with all four teams still in with a chance of clinching the one UEFA Cup place still up for grabs. An extra place will become available next Wednesday if Parma beat Arsenal in the European Cup Winners' Cup final.

AC Milan, already crowned champions, entertain Reggina, who are battling with Piacenza (away to Parma) and Udinese (away to Juventus) to avoid relegation.

In Holland, Ajax need just a point from Sunday's home clash with SC Heerenveen to ensure their 24th Dutch title and their first since 1990.

Feyenoord's chance of catching the Amsterdam giants all-but disappeared on Wednesday when they dropped a point to Groningen while Ajax were winning at Roda JC Kerkrade.



The Daily Star

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- The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94, is a series of 6 (six) Quiz Competitions on World Cup Football. Sets of questions will be published for 10 (ten) consecutive days in the Sports Page of the Daily Star for the first 5 (five) Quiz Competitions. For the last and final Bumper Quiz Competition, a set of questions will be published for one month in the Sports Page of the Daily Star according to the schedule (Fixture of the Rounds) as fixed by the Daily Star authorities.
 - For the first 5 (five) Quiz Competitions there will be 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5 (five) consolation prizes. The prizes will be Colour TV, Black & White TV, Super Turbo 2-in-1 Stereo Recorder and light bulbs respectively.
 - Any taxes or levies, as per rule, for all the above prizes, will have to be borne by the winners.
 - Names and addresses of all prizewinners will be published in the Daily Star. Winners will be responsible for collecting their prizes from the Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.
 - For the Bumper Quiz Competition, there will be the **BUMPER PRIZE** consisting of a ticket to the World Cup Final match, along with an Economy Class return air ticket (Dhaka-Los Angeles-Dhaka) and an amount for incidental expenses. The Daily Star does NOT take any responsibility for any visa or other travel documents that may be required. The **BUMPER PRIZE** winner will have to make his/her own arrangements in this regard. In case of the Bumper Prize winner's inability to travel to the USA he/she may choose to receive a sum of Tk.100,000/- in cash in lieu of the air fare and living expenses.
- RULES**
- Residents of Bangladesh, subject to these rules, will be eligible to participate in the Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94. All personnel and family members of the Daily Star, Transcom Electronics Ltd. and Unilever (advertising agency) and all its affiliate companies shall be deemed disqualified to participate in the Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94.
 - Participants are to cut the original form along the indicated dotted lines. All entries must be submitted on the original form printed in the Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
 - Participants are to put a tick (✓) mark in the box which they think is the correct answer to the question. A person may send as many entries as he/she likes.
 - Each entry form should be clearly filled-in complete with a ball-point pen. Participant's name, address, father's name must be clearly written. Each entry form must bear the correct date and signature of the participant.
 - Participants must ensure the following: All entries must reach the office of the Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "STAR QUIZ". Entries may be hand delivered or sent by post to the Daily Star House No.11, Road No.3, Dhanmandi Residential Area, Dhaka-1205.
 - Entries will be opened by the Daily Star authorities. Entries with all correct answers will be placed in a sealed box for the lucky draw, to be held on the notified/appointed date in public in the presence of invited guests and quiz participants, if any.
 - The Daily Star authorities, in their absolute discretion, reserve the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or reschedule any and all dates of the Daily Star World Cup Quiz '94 in any circumstances.
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 - Any decision of the Daily Star authorities in the conduct of the Quiz Competition (including the answers selected as correct) shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.

Quiz 3.

Entries close on 3-5-94

Read the instructions carefully. Then tick (✓) the answer which you think is correct.

- Which country was the 1930 World Cup runners-up? Chile ☐ USA ☐ Argentina ☐
- What was the name of the 1982 World Cup mascot? Pique ☐ Ola ☐ Naranjito ☐
- Where will the '94 World Cup opening ceremony be held? Chicago ☐ New York ☐ Detroit ☐
- Which Argentine coach was nicknamed 'Big Nose'? Bilardo ☐ Menotti ☐ Basile ☐
- Which Asian country played in the 1978 World Cup? Iran ☐ Israel ☐ Kuwait ☐
- Who was the West German manager in 1966? Derwall ☐ Schoen ☐ Meisl ☐
- Who was the referee in the 1974 World Cup Final? Taylor ☐ Reader ☐ Warken ☐
- When was the World Cup first televised? 1954 ☐ 1958 ☐ 1962 ☐
- How many European teams will play in World Cup USA '94? 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐
- Which country is making its debut in the WC finals this year? Sweden ☐ Spain ☐ Greece ☐

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

AGE: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Write with a ball-point pen in clear, CAPITAL LETTERS. Cut along the dotted lines and mail it to us FAST!