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No looking back for Brolin

STOCKHOLM, May 14: Every World Cup produces its success and failures as Tomas Brolin would be the first to testify, reports Reuter.

Four years ago Brolin went to Italy as a baby-faced 20-year-old with a mop of blond hair, a burning ambition to succeed and half a season at Norrkoping under his belt after a three-year apprenticeship at the modest Sundsvall Club.

Sweden had a disappointing World Cup, losing all three of their first round matches — but Brolin has never looked back.

He made such an outstanding impression on the Italians, thanks in part to a superb goal against Brazil, that ambitious Parma, then just promoted from Serie B, quickly snapped him up.

Both have thrived ever since. Parma have consolidated themselves as a major force in Serie A, winning the Italian Cup in 1992, the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1993 and only narrowly losing this season's final to Arsenal in Copenhagen.

Brolin has established himself as Parma's main midfielder, but is likely to play in a more attacking role in the United States as Sweden try to ensure they do not go through their third successive World Cup without a victory.

Sweden last won a match in the finals in 1974 when they beat Yugoslavia in West Germany.

That fact probably did not register too highly with Brolin at the time as he was just four years old. Twenty years on he still retains a boyish enthusiasm for the game, and allied to some superb skills, he has become a rich man and star.

His main attributes are his foraging runs, his strength and his eye for goal.

Although he has only scored 20 goals in 118 league games in four seasons in Italy, he is Sweden's current highest scorer with 16 goals in his 28 internationals. Like most great attackers

he can sniff out a half-chance and is often in just the right place at the right time to do so.

As if to emphasise that his performances in Italia '90 were no fluke, Brolin continued to develop his reputation in the European Championship which Sweden hosted in 1992.

He ended the competition as joint top-scorer with three goals as Sweden reached the semifinals. As in 1990 he experienced personal triumph and national disappointment.



TOMAS BROLIN

but at least, unlike 1990, the Swedes were not disgraced.

Going into this year's World Cup, coach Tommy Svensson is certain Brolin will again be the motor for his attacking formation.

"I think he is best when he comes from slightly further back. I don't think he should be the target man, but should work from behind the strikers," Svensson said recently.

"And I need him to cover wide areas where I think his power is most useful."

Brolin's international career came to a temporary halt last year when he was asked to be excused from the national side. The 'Brolin crisis,' as it was dubbed in Sweden started when the usually-affable player lost his temper over a wave of stories in the tabloid press.

Various theories were expounded as to what was bothering Brolin including a rift between him and striker Martin Dahlin of Borussia Moenchengladbach.

The crisis seems to have been averted and Svensson is sure that both men will be in his team for the finals, and leave whatever differences they may have with each other back in the dressing room.

"The Dahlin-Brolin combination is working well. I think they are both in very good

shape at the moment," he says.

His strongest attacking line-up is set to be Dahlin and Feynoord youngster Henrik Larsson as a striking duo backed up by a midfield spear-headed by Brolin.

Although that combination has not yet been tried at the highest level, there seems to be no reason why it should not work in the finals — although Cameroon, Brazil and Russia will do all they can to stop them in the first round.

But Brolin has proved he can usually get the better of most of his opponents.

The trouble for Sweden is that he appears to be the exception, rather than the rule. If that situation changes in the US, Brolin could yet experience personal and national triumphs at the same time.

Maradona no exception

TOKYO, May 14: Justice Minister Hiroshi Nakai repeated Saturday that Japan will not grant a visa to Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona because of his past drug use, reports AP.

The minister's comment came a day after a tear-gas grenade exploded in front of the Japanese Embassy in Buenos Aires, injuring at least two people.

Japanese news reports said Argentine police suspected that the incident was linked to the denial of the visa to Maradona.

Maradona, captain of Argentina's national soccer team, hoped to travel with the team to play in the Kirin Cup against France and Japan on May 22-26. But the Japanese government on Thursday denied Maradona an entry visa.

Nakai, appearing on the public Japan Broadcasting Corp (NHK) television network, said Japan has a rule of denying visas to foreigners who are convicted criminals for at least 10 years after their conviction.

Nakai said the Japanese government cannot make an exception for Maradona despite his fame.

Maradona, 33, was suspended from international play for 15 months in 1991-92 after testing positive for cocaine use. He also was arrested in Buenos Aires in 1991 for cocaine possession.

The Japanese government action has led to the withdrawal of the Argentine soccer team from the Kirin Cup.

However, a French soccer team is scheduled to compete in the Kirin Cup.

ROK go down

SEOUL, May 14: World Cup finalists South Korea lost 1-0 to International Club of Brazil (half-time 0-0) in a friendly soccer match today, reports Reuter.

Scorer: Anderson Schweitzer (57th). Attendance: 30,000.

Cuban grapplers' flight for freedom

MIAMI, May 14: Three members of Cuba's national wrestling team sought asylum in Miami during a stopover on the way to the US Open international of freestyle wrestling in New Jersey, sports and immigration officials said Friday, reports Reuter.

The trio, Jesus Wilson, Lazaro Reinoso and Iosovany Negret, left their team late Thursday at Miami International Airport and asked for political asylum, the officials said.

The three were part of a 10-athlete team due to represent Cuba at the weekend tournament at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

The other seven Cuban athletes and their two coaches arrived in Teaneck, New Jersey, Friday and were to participate as scheduled in the tournament, said USA Wrestling spokesman Steve Dittmore. Teams from 12 nations are competing.

Vorapin retains IBF crown

BANGKOK, May 14: Thailand's Rattaphol Sor Vorapin retained his International Boxing Federation mini-flyweight title Saturday by battering Roger Espanola of the Philippines until he collapsed in the corner of the ring, reports AP.

A knockout appeared certain from the opening bell as both fighters slammed into each other with all they had.

Rattaphol's punches were more solid, however, and in each round he was the stalker. His blows pushed the Filipino against the ropes, where the challenger took more punishment to the head and body.

Espanola fought back gamely, refusing to drop. Both fighters soon had blood on their faces.

The end came about one minute and 25 seconds into the sixth round. Espanola, again against the ropes, was hit with several lefts and rights to the body until he suddenly collapsed against the corner.

Cruz to fight Robinson instead

CARDIFF, Wales, May 14: Welsh fighter Steve Robinson will defend his World Boxing Organisation featherweight title against Freddy Cruz, of the Dominican Republic, in Cardiff June 4, reports AP.

Cruz, 32, is a replacement opponent because English fighter Duke McKenzie, who was the original challenger, has not recovered from an ear injury.

Cruz, who lost a decision to Puerto Rican Wilfredo Vasquez in a challenge for the World Boxing Association super-bantamweight title two years ago, has a record of 43 wins, five defeats and five draws.

To break a butterfly on the wheel?

NEW YORK, May 14: Security fencing is going up around the fields at three World Cup venues despite the opposition of FIFA and local organisers, reports Reuter.

World Cup USA 1994 chairman Alan Rothenberg said on Thursday he hoped Dallas police might reconsider but there was little hope of fences coming down in Washington or San Francisco where the authorities were adamant.

Speaking in a telephone conference call, he called the fences "a massive over-reaction", by police.

"There's a chance there might still be some modification in Dallas... we are giving them more data," he said.

"But I'm not aware of any possibility of a change in (Washington) RFK or (San Francisco) Stanford. I am not aware of any continuing discussions in those two venues." A spokeswoman at Dallas'

grounds of safety as much as aesthetics. 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.

"Our concern is not of fans rushing on field to harm an official, it is exuberant fans coming down to celebrate," said Rothenberg, adding that the risk of fans being crushed was far more serious.

Two thirds of the tickets have been sold inside the United States, where soccer violence is unheard of.

"It's a family audience — mother, father, two kids and about as unlikely to do any damage as anyone you can think of," said Rothenberg, adding that the international distribution of tickets had been cautious.

"Our security procedures with the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and other US law enforcement agencies are going to do an excellent job in screening undesirable elements before they even get in the country," he added.

Rothenberg apologised in part for security waiver for, sent to all reporters seeking accreditation, seeking permission to probe their personal backgrounds.

But he said the forms, which caused a gross invasion of personal privacy, remained necessary. "I guess I have to apologise for the fairly clumsy way in which we tried to achieve our objectives."

"Having no put that waiver

on the original application form was a gaffe. By being forthright we've caused ourselves trouble, our candour is coming back to bite us."

Asked whether this meant reporters who objected would no longer have to sign them, Rothenberg replied.

"If they haven't complied with our requirements for credentials, they are not going to get them. If they don't want to sign the waiver but do want to cover the games, they can buy a ticket and go that way," he said.

Chicago ready & waiting

CHICAGO, May 14: Chicago's 70-year-old Soldier Field is ready to host next month's World Cup opening match between champions Germany and Bolivia, reports Reuter.

Organisers said on Friday that renovations had been completed with the installation of a new grass field, restored concrete columns and even new bathrooms.

Chicago Park officials said 23 million dollars was spent to shore up the United States' oldest active professional football stadium, home field for the Chicago Bears NFL team.

A new concrete ramp was installed to improve access to four new women's bathroom sand workers laid a clay tile roof atop the stadium's neo-classical design.

The month-long World Cup, involving 24 nations, starts on June 17 and ends in Los Angeles on July 17.

Asprilla faces acid test

BOGOTA, May 14: Faustino Asprilla, the man who destroyed Argentina in their own stadium and ended Milan's record unbeaten run in the Italian Championship, now faces the ultimate challenge of the World Cup, reports Reuter.

It was Asprilla, who carved Argentina's defence to shreds in their normally impregnable River Plate Stadium, as Colombia inflicted a humiliating 5-0 defeat on the Argentines in last year's World Cup qualifying match.

It was also Asprilla, the first Colombian to play in the Italian league, who scored for Parma with a 30-metre free-kick to end Milan's 57-match unbeaten Serie A run last year.

The World Cup finals now present the latest and ultimate challenge to this 24-year-old whose career is the archetypal rags to riches story and who many feel has the potential to become one of the greats.

The win over Argentina showed Asprilla at his best, a player with pace and ingenuity and the ability to surprise.

His performance included a stunning goal where he stole the ball in midfield, stormed into the Argentina penalty area and, with most expecting him to round the goalkeeper and run the ball into the net, scored with a clinical chip into the top right hand corner of the net.

Jorge Borelli, the man who lost the ball in midfield, simply shrugged his shoulders and gave up as Asprilla charged into the distance.

That was the fourth goal. Asprilla had already scored the second and he brilliantly set up the fifth by slipping the ball cheekily between three defenders into the path of a teammate.

"Gazelle", is the word the Colombian press most use to describe Asprilla who, like many of Latin America's top players, comes from a poor background.

Asprilla was born in the town of Tulua, near Cali, in November 1969, one of nine children. He began his professional career with unfashionable Cucuta in 1989 and the following year moved to Medellin club Atletico Nacional, one of Colombia's top sides.

He caught the eye at international level in the South American Olympic qualifying tournament in Paraguay in February 1992, where he shone in partnership with Ivan Valenciano in a devastating Colombian attack.

The Colombians, among the favourites, unexpectedly had a poor Olympic tournament in Barcelona, failing to reach the quarter-finals.

But Italian scouts at the pre-Olympic qualifiers in Asuncion had been suitably impressed.

Asprilla, a man of few words, moved to Parma for the 1992-93 season though at first he was not guaranteed a place in the first team.

His progress is closely charted by the Colombian radio station Caracol, who broadcast every Parma match live.

But his career has not been all sweetness and light and, like many players who possess a touch of genius, Asprilla is no stranger to controversy.

After scoring two goals in the away leg of a semifinal against Atletico Madrid of Spain, he missed playing for Parma in last year's European

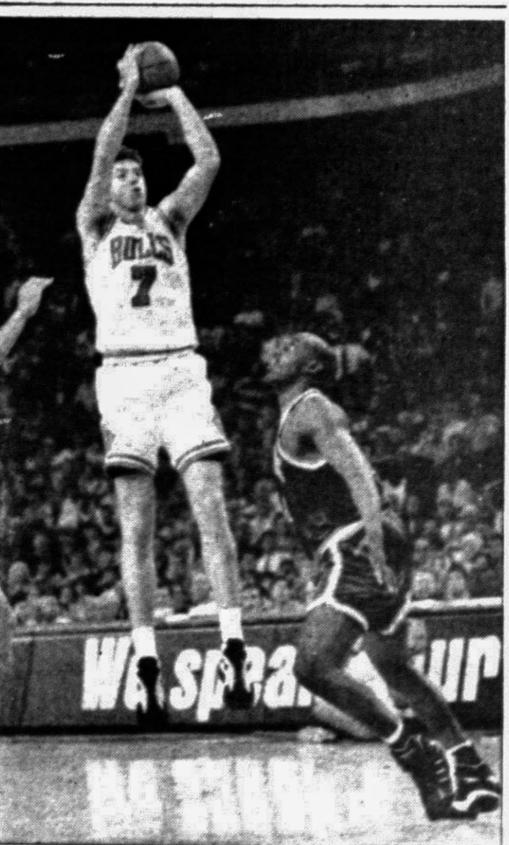
Cup Winners' Cup final in London after he hurt his foot in a mysterious incident on a visit to Tulua.

Asprilla said he cut his foot when he stepped on a broken bottle by the swimming pool at his home. Colombian press versions were that he sustained the injury in a brawl during a night on the town.

There was more controversy a few weeks later when he lashed out at photographers waiting for him at Bogota Airport.

During the World Cup qualifying matches, he stormed out of the team's training camp in Barranquilla, angry at being relegated to the substitutes' bench for the home game against Argentina.

The Colombian Federation announced an indefinite ban but Asprilla was reinstated after apologising and following appeals from his teammates.



Chicago Bulls forward Toni Kukoc (L) climbs over New York Knicks Anthony Mason to score the winning point in their NBA play-off game in Chicago on Friday. — AFP photo

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COMPETITION RULES

- INTRODUCTION:**
- The Daily Star World Cup Quiz 94, is a series of 50 Quiz Competitions on World Cup Football. Sets of questions will be published for 100 consecutive days in the Sports Page of The Daily Star for the first 50 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 Round) as fixed by the Daily Star authorities.
 - For the first 50 Quiz Competitions there will be 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 50th 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 Unirent (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 in his/her own name and address.
 - 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, Dhanshiri Residential Area, Dhaka-1206.
 - 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.
 - All participants agree to abide by all rules, instructions and guidelines as may be issued, from time to time, by The Daily Star authorities. Participants' entry in the quiz competition shall be construed as their respective agreement to all such rules, instructions and guidelines.
 - 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 5. Entries close on 31-5-94

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

- Which one of these countries was eliminated from the 1974 WC without losing a match? Italy Chile Scotland
- When was the red card first used in a World Cup? 1970 1974 1978
- Who is credited with the first-ever World Cup hat-trick? Pontaine Dorado Stable
- Who scored the first hat-trick in a World Cup Final? Pele Piola Hurst
- Who was the first player to get a red card in a WC Final? Garrincha Dezotti Monzon
- Who scored Germany's winning goal in the 1990 WC Final? Klinsmann Voeller Brehme
- How many World Cup appearances did Pele make? 12 14 16
- Which country played in the 1978 World Cup after a gap of 20 years? Austria France Peru
- When was the first-ever goalless draw in a World Cup? 1938 1958 1978
- Who captained the World Cup-winning German team in 1954? Rahn F Walter O Walter

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

FATHER'S NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

OCCUPATION _____ SIGNATURE _____

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