

# WORLD CUP USA



# Injury robs Vogts' peace



Ontario, June 10:

German defender Thomas Strunz will miss the opening game of the World Cup June 17 against Bolivia because of a hamstring injury, team officials said

Thursday, reports AP. Strunz, 26, suffered the injury in Wednesday's 2-0 victory over Canada, Germany's last test match before begin to defend their World Cup title in Chicago.

"There are always miracles but I can't imagine I'll be able to play," a disappointed Strunz told reporters at the team's headquarters at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston, an hour's drive from Toronto.

"You really prepare for the opening game, you concentrate hard on it, and then unfortunately something like this happens. But now I am looking ahead to the game against Spain." Strunz said of Germany's second'game June 21.

There were good news too, however, from team physicians. Mario Basler, a newcomer who is quickly becoming an influential offensive midfielder, is likely to be fit . for the game against Bolivia at Soldier Field.

Basler was carried off the field Wednesday with what was thought to be possibly a serious knee injury. But X-rays revealed no fracture and team physician Heinrich Hess said Basler should be back in full training within three days.

"It looked very bad and it was very, very painful," Hess said of Basler's injury. "But it turned out to be only bad bruising and a strain of interior

States' World Cup squad.

English Second Division in 1990

Tony Meola. Age 25. Not attached to a club,

85 caps; experienced keeper who was the

Americans' first choice during the last World

Cup in Italy: played briefly for Watford in the

mainstay for the US Olympic team; was named

US college-player of-the-year in 1992; recently

signed with English Premier league team

Juergen Sommer. 25. Luton Town, 0; apart

Marcelo Balboa. 27. No club. 90: most expe-

rienced defender: played in all three US games

in 1990 World cup finals; badly injured knee

against Iceland last year, but has battled back

to regain his place as central defender;

sweeper at hearts of American defence; has

fender who can play as sweeper or on flanks;

played in all three of the United States' 1990-

World Cup games in Italy: scoring against

Czechoslovakia: played in Germany for Freiburg

veteran of the American Indoor leagues; made

debut with US outdoor team in 1990; born in

Uruguay, where he played for First Division

Thomas Dooley, 33. No club, 39; veteran

central defender or midfielder who played 10

years in the Bundesliga in his native Germany;

Helped Kaiserslautern to the German

Championship in 1991; scored first goal in

shock win over England last year and twice

against Germany in Chicago; Son of US soldier

who married a German, he is captain of US

Cle Kooiman. 33. No club. 11; rugged de-

fender who played in Mexican First Division for

two seasons with Juarez Cobreas and later as

captain of Cruz Azul; played five years with LA

Lasers in indoor league; was place-kicker for

Alexi Lalas. 24. No club, 46; distinctive red-

haired; goateed central defender; the team's

bohemian; plays guitar in rock band and has re-

leased album of his own songs; dangerous

header of the ball, he scored second goal in

Mike Lapper. 23. No Club. 39; tenacious

Mike Burns. 23. No club, 18; a product of

US Soccer's national programme; played in

1987 under-16 World Championships; was in

American Games and played in all the

Americans' Olympic matches in 1992; solid in

defence and attack; made his debut for na-

US team that won gold medal in 1991 Pan-

marker, who played every minute for the US in

his high school American football team.

last year's 2-0 win over England.

1992 Olympics.

MIDFIELDERS:

Fernando Clavijo, 37. No club. 58: ten-year

Paul Caligiuri. 30. No club, 83; versatile de-

from playing for English First Division side

Luton Town: has also played in Third Division

Brad Friedel. 23. Newcastle United, 25: a

GOALKEEPERS:

Newcastle United.

DEFENDERS:

on loan to Torquay United.

scored 10 goals for US.

Atenas at the age of 16.

and Hansa Rostock in 1991-92.

"If his recovery continues to be so successful as in the first 24 hours, we can assume that he'll be able to play in Chicago," Hess said. "With Strunz, it's more than a muscle strain, although it's not a real tear, but the needs a week of

Basler, 25, made his international debut in a 2-1 victory over Italy in March. He got the call from coach Berti Vogts after only one full first-division Bundesliga season with Werder

Although he has only a handful of national team games. Basler could be a starter at the World Cup after performances that have im-



BERTI VOGTS

pressed Vogts. Vogts was encouraged by the doctors' ruling on Basier and he tried to play down the disappointing news on Strunz.

But the German manager will be hard pressed to find an adequate replacement for the fast, piercing runs of Strunz on the right side, which has been

PROFILES: UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, June 10: Following are brief profiles of the United

tional team last September.

John Harkes. 27. Derby County: 52; tireless

midfielder who can tackle tenaciously and is

also elegant passer; experienced in English

Premier Division, where he played in 86 league

games and scored seven goals in two seasons;

was first American to play at Wembley, setting

up goal for Sheffield Wednesday in 1993 FA

Cup final: transferred to First Division Derby

County for dollar 1.22 million for 1993-4 sea-

fast, dynamic player, who was in gold medal-

winning US team at 1991 Pan-American

Games: played in all three Olympic Games in

Salvador, he is one of the most experienced

members of the US team; played for Red Star

of Paris in 1989 and Ittihad of Saudi Arabia in

1992-3; was US soccer player-of-the-year in

1991; played in 1984 Olympics and 1986 and

Tab Ramos. 27. Real Beti, 50; Creative mid-

fielder who was one of first of new wave of

Americans to play overseas first with figure as

and now with Real Betis of Spanish Second

Division: played in 1988 Olympic team and in

1990 World Cup finals: Born in Uruguay, where

Claudio Reyna. 20. No club, 17; skilful mid-

flelder; considered by many to have potential

to be best American player; Scored on his de-

but for US against Moldova; son of an Argentine

Mike Sorber, 23. No club, 36; made interna

Frank Klopas. 27. AEK Athens; 31; Greek-

born, plays for AEK Athens in Greek league;

regular with the US national team since 1987;

signed with Chicago Sting of now-defunct

built, free-kick specialist, who can score cru-

cial goals like the overtime winner against

Mexico in the Pan-American Games final in

born striker, son of an American serviceman,

who has played all his professional soccer in

the Netherlands, with Venlo and now Willem II

in Dutch First Division; has exceptional speed

inherited from his Dutch mother who was a

African-born, highly experienced striker in

English leagues, scoring more than 50 goals;

he was third highest scorer in First Division in

1990-91 with Queen's Park Rangers; now with

sive forward, who was first American to break

into German Bundesliga, scoring nine goals in

first 10 games with Saarbruecken in 1992;

Now with VFB Bochum: played in two of US's

1990 World Cup games in Italy.

Eric Wynalda. 25. VFB Bochum; 53; explo-

Roy Wegerle. 30. Coventry City; 17; South

Ernie Steewart. 25. Willem II; 16; Dutch-

Joe-Max Moore. 23. No club, 34; slightly-

North American soccer league in 1984.

tional debut against Commonwealth of

professional player who emigrated to US.

Independent States in January 1992.

1990 World Cup qualifying rounds.

father played professionally.

FORWARDS:

sprint star.

Coventry City.

Hugo Perez. 34. No club. 77; Born in El

Cobi Jones. 23 (24 on June 16). No club, 50;

vulnerable in the past for the

German team. The Stuttgart defender made his international debut in 1990, but had a slump later and has collected only a dozen caps since then.

His career was revived when Strunz moved from the bench of Bayern Munich to the starting eleven of Stuttgart in the 1992 season, and he regained the confidence of

Vogts criticized the hard style used by Canada, although neither Strunz nor Basler were injured as a result of rough tackles.

"We have to live with it, they played very, very physically, they use the England style. They did not play like that against Brazil (1-1), but that's how you play against the world champion," Vogts said.

"We should have won by five or six goals, we wasted many chances," Vogts said.

"Strunz is a very important player for us, but we have players who can play different positions defensively," he said. "I'm confident that we won't have problems on the right

Vogts will have to reshuffle his defence, with possibly Thomas Berthold or Stefan Effenberg moving to the right.

Effenberg, who missed Wednesday's game because of a thigh strain, and Andreas Moeller, another midfielder who was suffering from a cold. resumed practising Thursday. Guido Buchwald, a central defender who also missed the Canada match, also returned to practice Thursday, albeit not at full power after a hamstring



Diego Maradona takes a break from a practice session at the Brandys University ground on Thursday to hug his children Dalna, 7 (L) and Ginaninna, 5. - AFP photo

### Pele writes off Maradona has the opportunity to play



NEW YORK, June 10: World Cup soccer legend Pele said on Thursday Colombia had the best team in the

1994 finals and predicted Diego Maradona would prove only a token threat, reports Reuter.

Pele instead nominated Italy's Roberto Baggio, Colombia's Faustino Asprilla and fellow Brazilian Romario as likely stars of what he said could become the best tournament in years.

"Colombia have a very organised side with one or two good young players, including Asprilla, and they've played together a long time. They're the best team, no doubt," said Pele.

"But anything can happen. If you remember 1982, everyone said Brazil was the best team and they failed to reach the final. Instead, Italy reached the final with the worst team in Spain.

Brazil's chances of emulat ing the achievements of Pele's era, according to their former captain, rest on them finding a "more compact" style and possibly taking a risk with the 17-year-old Ronaldo, being hailed by some as "the new

think he will be one of the stars of the World Cup. If I was the manager I'd give him a chance to play. "Even now people worry

about Brazil and I think e they, Colombia or Germany will be in the final."

Pele also nominated Ireland - "They are tough to beat" and Nigeria as potential surprise teams.

But he could not resist a big at Maradona, one of the few to have inherited the Brazilian's mantle as the greatest players in the world. "I really don't expect any-

thing from him ... it's too late,' said Pele, reflecting on the Argentine's presence at his fourth World Cup. "If you are in condition you can do it. At the age of 53, you

can forget about asking Pele to

do bicycle kicks or make beautiful goals," he said. "But I could still playing midfield because I'm in good condition... once you hit the

point that he hit, however, it's difficult to come back." Pele's career ended in New

York 17 years ago following a three-year-stint with the New York Cosmos. During two decades in the professional game, he scored 1,282 goals in

### "He's a good player and if he 1.364 games. Brazil not invincible?



SAN DIEGO, June 10: Swedish so ccer coach Tommy Svensson has long been among those rating Bra

zil a potential World Cup champion.

But he isn't so convinced any more after watching the Brazilians - drawn with Sweden into preliminary Group B - beat haplese Honduras by a whopping 8-2 in an exhibition in San Diego Wednesday, reports AP.

"I'm sure the Brazilians will play well and win many games in the World Cup," Svensson said Thursday at the first press conference after the Swedish team's arrival. But I doubt they will go all the way and become (world) champions. Brazil showed a few weaknesses in their defense last night.

Goalkeeping has been a problem for Brazilian national teams in the past. But keeper Claudio Taffarel was hardly to

blame for Honduras' two goals It was the defence that let him

Both goals came when Brazil tried an unusual threeman attack.

"If you have three men up front you will lack people somewhere else," sa' Svensson, who went to see Wednesday's game .... uy after stepping off the plane from Sweden. "It's a question of what risk you want to take. If you want to play an attacking game, if you need to score, it's very good. You could also pay

That's why I think they will start with two men up 'ront in their opening game (against

the price.

"I was impressed by their attacking style, but remember that no team in the World Cup finals will have such a weak defense as the Hondurans showed last night," said Svensson, an admirer of Brazilian soccer. Romario and Bebeto, who

battled for the Spanish league's scoring title, scored the five first goals for Brazil. Sweden face Brazil in their

last World Cup Group B match June 28 at the indoor Silverdome in Pontiac, Mich. Brazil have won all five World Cup finals encounters between the two teams, including the 1958 championship game Stockholm, Sweden.

UNDISPUTED MATCH OF THE TOURNAMENT IS

# Bulgaria looking for a break



AUSTIN. Texas. June 10: Bulgaria, who have never won a game at the World Cup finals, are burs-

ting with a self-confidence that suggests they are about to make amends and cause a few surprises, reports Reuter. While coach Dimitar Penev

is quietly confident about his team's potential, the players believe they will make a big impact in the United States. "We will improve our record

without any doubt," midfielder Boncho Genchev said on Thursday. "I am not just and optimist, I believe it."

Bulgaria, are appearing in their sixth World Cup finals. but their record on the big occasion is a poor one with six draws and 10 defeats in their 16 matches.

More than anything else, Penev wants to change that.

Asked what his aims are for the 15th World Cup, Penev said simply: "First we should like to win one game, because we have never won one. After that we shall see."

London bookmakers are quoting Bulgaria at 40-1 to win the World Cup, the same odds offered on Romania, Sweden and Switzerland.

Paney, one of Bulgaria's best central defenders during a playing career which saw him appear in three World Cup tournaments and win 90 caps, knows he has ten players to accomplish his ambition. "I think this is one of the

finest Bulgarian teams," he said in an interview at their pre-World Cup base on Thursday. "At other World Cups we have has some very good play-

ers, but the difference this

been playing abroad. They have gained a lot of vital experience and they have high expectations of themselves. "I would say we have the possibility of going further

than the first round this time. but we face good adversaries." he added.

Bulgaria open their World Cup campaign against African champions Nigeria in Dallas on June 21 and play Balkan neighbours Greece and twice world champions Argentina in Group D.

The Bulgarian players, with the likes of world-class strikers Bristo Stoichliv of Barcelona and Emil Kostadinov



HRISTO STOICHKOV of Portuguese championship

runners-up Porto, have a selfbelief that was missing when the country was behind the iron curtain. Penev said he was having a

hard job to remind them how though the tournament will be. "Nigeria are dangerous opponents. Not only are they

strong team with players playtime is that for four or five ing in Europe," he said. years a lot of our players have "I must repeat that every

> day to my players. Otherwise we might underestimate them. "They have a lot of good qualities, they are good technically and good tactically. They will be a danger to all

Genchev. "I believe in my teammates, myself and our coaching staff."

teams. "But so too will Bulgaria,

according to English-based

he explained. "It's not chance or luck that all out top players are playing for leading clubs across Europe. I think we will not be

ashamed of how we play here." Thirteen of the 22-man squad play abroad, and another seven are from Bulgarian champions Levski Sofia, and all are eager to repeat their success at club level for their country.

I won't say how we will do in any particular game, but there is a saying that your appetite grows as you see the menu and when the food is served up in front of you," said Genchev. "We are ready to eat."

### World Cup organisers sued

CHICAGO, June 10: A Chicago soccer fan has filed a lawsuft against the World Cup organisers, claiming he was sent some of the cheapest seats in the stadium despite paying for the best, reports Reuter.

The litigant was not named in court papers filed on Tuesday, but published reports in Chicago identified him as Anton Naunheimer.

### PROFILES: NORWAY

African champions, they are a

OSLO, June 10; Following are brief profiles of Norway's World Cup squad.

#### GOALKEEPERS:

Erik Thorstvedt: Age 31. Tottenham, 84 caps, well-liked veteran star, second most capped player in Norway's history; Known as "Erik the Viking," throws gloves to crowds after every win at Tottenham; Only Norwegian to play on winning side in English FA Cup final - Tottenham 1991; Giant reach (1.94 cm tall); Often dives to stop apparently impossible

Frode Grodaas, 29. Lillestroem; 12; Firstchoice substitute for Thorstvedt; has been cool-headed and decisive during qualifiers; Art-timer who is trained school teacher.

Olaby Rise. 33. Rosemborg: 25; Middle initial "B" gives nickname "Bench"; He has been in the squad 75 times but played only 25 games; Got gold watch for 25th cap in May 1994 but joked it was like his career - too slow.

### DEFENDERS:

Henning Berg. 24. Blackburn Rovers; 16; fast runner like many of defence; Coach Egil Olsen says defenders are his best sprinters; allrounder, good in the air and team regular since debut in 1992, one of generation of good players born in 1969.

Stig Inge Bjoernebye. 24. Liverpool Rosenborg: 34: failed to impress enough to secure first team place at Liverpool despite pinpoint passes: speciality is long cross, targeting tall Jostein Flo who heads into goal. Gunnar Halle. 28. Oldham Athletic; 44

Physical defender; Back after being battered by injury last season; he cracked a rib and punctured a lung in a game in April, the day he made his comeback after two knee operating; Prone to getting booked. Alf Inge Haaland. 21. Nottingham Forest; 3;

One of least experienced players but mainstay of under-21 side; strong tackler, fast and often à threatening addition to attacks.

Rune Bratseth. 33. Werder Bremen; 57; Captain and Dlynchpin of team playing final season; Know as "The Elk," has speed and calm to outwit world class attackers; Christian teetotaller, he threatened to pull out of World Cup after brewery used team in beer advertisement, the ads were scrapped. Roger Nilsen. 23. Sheffield United; 20;

Often produces cannonball shots from well outside area; scorer of three international goals, but sometimes erratic with fatal lapses of concentration. Erland Johnsen, 27. Chels. 2; 20; Centre

back. Hard tackler and good passer with two international goals go credit but not regular player under Olsen. Named mainly as a substi-

#### MIDFIELDERS: Oeyvind Leonhardsen. 23. Rosenborg. 29;

Team workhorse, tirelessly running and tying midfield together; scorer of eight international goals: Olsen worries his running could drain Fjoertoft and Soerloth.

his energy in heat and humidity in US. Lars Bohinen. 24. Nottingham Forest; 29;

One of main stars: Strong runner along with Leonhardsen and inventive midfielder with good overview of play and deft touch in front of goal; Cousin of striker Sigurd Rushfeldt.

Erik Mykland. 22 (23 on July 21). IK SRT. 25: One of most creative in squad, worming his way out of tight corners and opening up play

with neat passes: One of the smallest Players in squad (1.72 cm) known as "The Mosquito", absent-minded off pitch, he once took a beach bag instead of soccer gear to game. Kjetil Rekdal, 25. K. Lierse: 32; Good view of play from midfield; Often anonymous of pitch but can sometimes pull out a shocker-like loopin half-voelly at Wembley to score vital equaliser in 1-1 draw against England in 1992 qualifier.

Jstein Flo. 29. Sheffield United, 23; Giant (1.94 cm) player, most threatening with his head in front of goal and an easy target for long passes; called "Jo Flo" as a joking twist to "Flo Jo," nickname of US sprinter - Florence Griffith-Joyner.

Dan Eggen. 23. Brondby: 2; Biggest surprise inclusion in squad and usually defender, but chosen for strong heading ability as likely substitute for Flo in right midfield; free transfer to Bronby; a student at Copenhagen University.

Jahn Ivar Jakobsen. 28. Young Boys K. Lierse; 44; Tiny (1.68 cm) mercurial player universally known as "mini", good dribbler; former top Norwegian league scorer, he somersaults when scores; erratic finish means he more often wrings hand in despair.

Harl-Petter Loeken. 27. Rosenborg: 32; Experienced all-rounder and good attacker, but picked mainly for substitutes' bench; Works as engineer when not soccer player.

Rear Stand 24. Rosenborg: 1; Chosen after a solid season in Norway and good showing in under-21 team, but likely to sit out most games as reserve; Strong runner, fast reactions but sometimes weak tactical overview.

### FORWARDS:

Jan Aage Fjoertoft. 27. Swindon Town; 50; Olsen's first choice striker in 4-5-1 system; good dribbler breaking into goal area; both he and Soerloth are top scorers on squad - with 15 international goals each; sometimes criticised for falling too easily to try to win penal-

Goeran Soerloth. 31 (32 on July 16); Bursaspor, 54; Solidly-built, experienced striker with powerful shot returning to squad after several months' absence; he once refused to play for Norway, saying had more important club commitment in Turkey, bringing rumours Olsen would ditch him. Sigurd Rushfeldt, 21. Tromsoe; 1; Youngest

member of squad; Strong shot and good feinting skills, but definite third choice behind

FRANCE IS PREFERRED TO ARGENTINA AS THE VENUE FOR THE 1938 COMPETITION. IT'S THE PERFECT SETTING FOR THE WORLD'S TOP PLAYERS TO DISPLAY THEIR FOOTBALLING



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FAM NOW INCLUDES THE BEST AUSTRIAN PLAYERS BUT THEY ARE SURPRISE EARLY CASUALTIES - GOING DOWN 4-2 TO WITZERLAND IN A REPLAY

AFTER POLITICAL CHANGES THE GERMAN



IN ANOTHER SHOCK, EXOTIC NEWCOMERS







BRAZIL'S BLACK DIAMOND LEONIDAS DA



INFORTUNATELY. THE SOUTH AMERICANS' NEXT MATCH, AGAINST CZECHOSŁOVAKIA, MAKES HEADLINES FOR THE WRONG REASONS. THREE PLAYERS ARE SENT OFF WHILE SEVERAL OTHERS ARE INJURED INCLUDING GOALIE PLANICKA



5 CHANGES FOR THE REPLAY

WHICH BRAZIL WIN 2-1.