



Share The Passion



FIFA's fear, Campos is here

WASHINGTON, June 19: Mexican goalkeeper Jorge Campos and his national team's World Cup coach Miguel Mejia Baron are posing a striking problem for FIFA, reports Reuter.

Baron, who has switched Campos from goal to a striker's role during qualifying matches for Mexico, indicated he would continue to do so in the World Cup.

But the announcement sent FIFA, the sport's governing body, into something of a spin with officials scouring their rules to determine whether they could allow the switch.

Reports filtered back to Baron that FIFA might not allow him to bring on a new goalkeeper and push Campos upfield.

Speaking at a news conference at the RFK Memorial Stadium in Washington, Baron said: "As far as I am concerned I can pick any of my squad to play where I want."

"If the rules have changed, I will expect to be notified of this by (FIFA general secretary) Sepp Blatter officially."

A FIFA official said on Saturday that while the World Cup rules were still being clarified, Campos would probably be allowed to play in the outfield if Mexico could provide him with a regular team jersey bearing his official number.

Campos would not be permitted to play in a teammate's shirt with the wrong number.

"It's a logistical problem rather than anything to do with the laws of the game," said FIFA press officer Andreas Herren.

"Campos played in this role in the preliminaries, so from a law point of view it is feasible. But World Cup regulations say a player must use his numbered shirt throughout the tournament."

"We are investigating and it may be if Mexico can provide him with another jersey with his number on it will be allowed to change positions during a game."

Campos has played as a striker twice for Mexico and has also been switched from goalkeeper to a forward position during a match several times.

"I am not sure what I shall do," said the goalkeeper, one of the most colourful characters at the World Cup. "I may play in goal for the whole match, or I may come out for five or 10 minutes or longer. It depends on the coach."

Campos, 27, once played upfront for a full season with his club Universidad Nacional and finished as their leading goal scorer.

"It is my dream to play in attack, but I know I have to play in goal too," said the former Acapulco surfer whose fluorescent green-and-pink goalkeeping jerseys have added to his reputation as a maverick. He often makes un-scheduled excursions into attack as well to boost his team's goal-power.

Goals galore at Hockey Stadium

Sports Reporter

Noakhali and Patuakhali recorded an identical 4-1 victory over their opponents in the Rajshahi All Gold Cup hockey tournament at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, center forward Wazed scored three goals to guide his side to a convincing victory over Jessore.

Danesh scored the other in the very first minute of the second half while Mahfuz struck the consolation for the vanquished from a penalty corner.

In the other match of the day, Patuakhali edged past Rajshahi by 4-1 in the tie-breaker after the 70-minute struggle ended in a sterile draw.

THE TEAM REALLY CATCHING THE EYE IS HOLLAND, INSPIRED BY THE MERCURIAL JOHAN CRUIFF. THREE TIMES A EUROPEAN CUP MEDALIST WITH AJAX AMSTERDAM, CRUIFF HAS SUCCEEDED PELE AS THE WORLD'S TOP PLAYER.



Carlos Valderrama, the flame haired Colombian emerges victor from a dual challenge of the Romanian defence during the fascinating Group A match of the 15th World Cup at the Rose Bowl Stadium in Los Angeles on June 19. Romania won 3-1. — AFP photo

FIFA's shot reaches home

UNDATED, June 19: FIFA got what it wanted Saturday, the Americans got a third of what they wanted.

Playing the first World Cup game indoors at the Silverdome in Pontiac, Mich., FIFA saw Americans enjoying soccer and frenzied fans, reports AP.

Some of those moments even were provided by Americans, as the United States tied Switzerland 1-1 in the first World Cup game played indoors. It was only a third of the points the Americans wanted, but considering it was their first World Cup points in 44 years, they were satisfied.

Hours later, the feature game of the first round brought a stirring upset as Ireland edged Italy 1-0 before a passionate sellout crowd at Giants Stadium.

In another surprise, Romania beat Colombia, one of the pretournament favourites, 3-1. It was only the second loss for Colombia since July 1991.

Italy-Ireland had everything a soccer fan could wish for. With perhaps three-quarters of the fans singing, chanting, even screaming for the Irish for the full 90 minutes — Italy were expected to have the majority of crowd support in the New York City area — Ireland got a goal from Ray Houghton in the 12th minute.

And the goal stood as the tension in the 32 degrees Celsius (90 Fahrenheit) heat mounted and neither team wilted.

"It was like in a dream," Houghton said. "But it was no dream and we pulled it out."

The US team finally enjoyed strong support from a home crowd. Eric Wynalda, who was tossed out of his team's 1990 opener, scored on a perfect free kick in the final minute of the first half. Then goalie Tony Meola made it stand.

"It was the greatest goal of my life," Wynalda said.

The Silverdome, with its grass field trucked in to temporarily replace the artificial turf, was, like Giants Stadium, a steambath.

The dome is not air conditioned, and it was made hotter by the fervor of the US fans.

The Italians couldn't have enjoyed their supposed home game, which turned into an Irish homecoming — Ireland fans outnumbered Italian rooters at least 3-to-1.

It was the first regulation-time victory in a World Cup for Ireland, who are making only their second appearance in the tournament. The Italians have won it three times.

At the Rose Bowl, Colombia fell behind early as goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba struggled, and couldn't catch up despite controlling the ball for most of the game.

Gherghe Hagi set up two goals for Florin Raducioiu and scored the other himself, putting the Romanians on top of Group A, ahead of the Americans and Swiss, with Colombia at the bottom after one game.

Raducioiu beat two defenders to put Romania ahead after 15 minutes off Hagi's pass. Hagi made it 2-0 with a lob in the 34th minute that soared over Cordoba. Adolfo Valencia headed in a goal for Colombia three minutes before halftime. But three minutes from the end, Hagi sent Raducioiu in free again and he moved around Cordoba to score.

Death also touched the World Cup. Twelve people were killed as their plane crashed near Dulles International Airport outside Washington, DC. A spokesman for the airplane chartering company said the Lear jet had two crewmen and 10 passengers. He said the passengers were headed to Washington for a game between Mexico and Norway on Sunday.

In Loughinisland, near Belfast, two gunmen walked into a pub and fired at random Saturday night, killing six people and wounding five, police said. News reports said the pub-goers had crowded in to watch Ireland's World Cup victory against Italy on television.

The outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, a pro-British Protestant paramilitary group, claimed responsibility for the attack.

OPERATIC starts Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti and Jose Carreras, known internationally as "The Three Tenors," will perform together at Los Angeles Dodgers Stadium on Saturday in the presentation of "Encore! The Three Tenors."

Domingo attended the Spain vs Korea Republic game in Dallas Friday night which ended in a 2-2 draw.

UNDATED, June 19: For two of the all-time greats of soccer, the 15th World Cup will be their fourth World Cup tournament, reports AP.

Diego Maradona may have somewhat unpleasant memories of his World Cup debut in 1982 when he was sent off in the second-round match against Brazil, but still sweeter ones in his 1986 triumph.

Lothar Matthaus is also ready to take on the challenge of his fourth World Cup. He was runner-up with Germany in 1982 as well as 1986 and captain of the World Cup winners in 1990.

Maradona and Matthaus join an exclusive club of players who performed in four final tournaments. Among them are Pele, Germany's Uwe Seeler, Pedro Rocha of Uruguay, and Italian midfielder Gianni Rivera. Antonio Carbajal, however, has been camping on the all-time summit for quite a while: Mexico's goal-keeping legend participated in five successive World Cup finals between 1950 and 1966.

Forward Juergen Klinsman has been selected by a panel of journalists as a winner of MasterCard Award for his outstanding play in Germany's 1-0 win over Bolivia in Friday's opener of World Cup USA 1994.

In his honour, MasterCard an official sponsor of the Cup, will donate \$1,000 to his charity of choice, Mexico Hille, an orphanage in Queretaro, Mexico.

Klinsman's goal in the 61st minute was selected as the most memorable moment on the match by a panel of World Cup accredited media covering the game. After a long pass by Lothar Matthaus, which was nudged down by Thomas Hassler, Klinsmann scored into an open net.

The new Lev Yashin prize will be awarded to the best goalkeeper in the 1994 World Cup in memory of Lev Yashin, the legendary Soviet goalie who died in 1990.

The dimensions of the soccer field at 75,000-seat Giants Stadium are 66 meters (72 yards) by 103 metres (112 yards), slightly shorter and narrower than a regulation field of 68 metres (74 yards) by 105 metres (114 yards). Players will have nearly two metres (2 yards) of space from the stadium wall to step into corner kicks. FIFA has approved the changes.

The Giants Stadium served as the home of the Cosmos soccer team from 1977 to 1984. At their peak, the Cosmos averaged 50,000 fans per game. Among the stars playing for Cosmos were Pele, Franz Beckenbauer, Giorgio Chinaglia, Carlos Alberto and Johnan Neskens.

Both the New York Giants and the New York Jets of the National Football League play at the Giants Stadium, making it the only stadium in the United States to house two NFL teams.

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IN THE SECOND ROUND, ARGENTINA ARE NEXT TO FEEL HOLLAND'S AWESOME GOAL POWER. CRUIFF WALTZES THROUGH TO NET THE FIRST IN A 4-0 BOMP

AFTER EAST GERMANY ARE COMFORTABLY BEATEN 2-0, THE DUTCH ARE FIRMLY INSTALLED AS FAVOURITES. THEIR FANS ARE SINGING IN THE RAIN.

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BRASIL'S SHAMEFUL FALL FROM GRACE IS COMPLETE AS PEREIRA IS RED-CARDED. THE FORMER KING OF FOOTBALL HAVE BULLIED THEIR REPUTATION BACK. IT'S THE NEW BREED WHO GO THROUGH TO THE FINAL.

IT'S A TENSE, NIGGLING AFFAIR. BRAZIL SEEM INTENT ON DEFENDING THEIR CROWN AT ALL COSTS.

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Fed Cup second round from Wednesday

Sports Reporter

The eight-team final round of the BEXIMCO 12th Federation Cup football tournament will begin on Wednesday.

The final round which was earlier scheduled to start from yesterday has been deferred by the organisers Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for three days for reasons attributed as 'an avoidable' as usual.

Eng 56 for one

LONDON, June 19: England, set a target of 407 for victory, were 56-0 in their second innings at the close of the fourth day of the second Test at Lord's today, reports Reuter.

Scores: New Zealand 476 and 211-5 declared. England 281 and 56-0.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the second cricket Test between England and New Zealand at Lord's today.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 476 (M. Crowe 142, S.Thomson 69, D.Nash 56).

ENGLAND: First innings 281 (G.Hick 58, C.White 51, D.Nash 6-76).

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

Pocock lbw b DeFreitas 2
Young c Hick b Such 94
Rutherford lbw b DeFreitas 0
Crowe b DeFreitas 9
Fleming lbw b Taylor 39
Thomson not out 38
Parore not out 15
Extras: (lb-4, nb-10) 14
Total: (for five wickets, declared) 211
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-9, 3-29, 4-144, 5-170.

Bowling: O M R W
Fraser 15 0 50 0
DeFreitas 16 0 3 3
Such 25 5 55 1
White 4 1 21 0
Hick 2 2 0 0
Taylor 6 2.1 8 1
(incomplete)

Walsh wrecks Notts

LONDON, June 19: Courtney Walsh propelled Gloucestershire to their second county championship victory of the season with another devastating performance against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Walsh, whose 11-wicket haul had set up Gloucestershire's first win over Somerset, went one better this time with match figures of 12 for 102.

The West Indian paceman turned the match firmly in Gloucestershire's favour in an 85 minute spell on the third morning in which he claimed six for 19 in 8.3 overs.

That cut through the Notts lower order, sending them tumbling from 65 for four to 110 all out. Walsh took 7-42.

It left Gloucestershire with a modest target of 206 and although they were wobbling at 74 for four, they recovered to win by three wickets.

Ex-England captain Mike Gatting hit a magnificent 225 and Keith Brown an unbeaten 102 to give Middlesex a great chance of their first championship win of the season.

The visitors piled up a massive 623 for nine declared for a lead of 226 over second-in-table Leicestershire.

The declaration left the home side with 13 overs to negotiate before the close and they struggled through to reach 20 without loss. They must now bat all day on Monday to scramble a draw.

Sussex pulled off their second successive championship win with a day to spare at Hove, veteran off spinner Eddie Hemmings grabbing five for 53 to wreck Durham.

The visitors, resuming on 42 for no wicket, were dismissed for 241, leaving Sussex only 109 to win. Neil Lenham and skipper Alan Wells shared an unbeaten third wicket stand of 77 as they eased home by eight wickets off 27.1 overs.

Boost for Korean WC bid

DALLAS, Texas, June 19: South Korea's dream of becoming the first Asian country to host the World Cup received a major boost from their stunning draw with Spain in the Cotton Bowl, reports AFP.

A good showing here is vital if Korea wants to host the 2002 World Cup, and as the team flew out early Saturday for their next Group C match against Bolivia in Boston on Tuesday they were brimming with new-found confidence.

Plagued for years by an inability to hold on to a lead or last 90 minutes, the South Koreans finally ended their international nightmare.

Not only did they come back from being two goals down, they grabbed the equaliser in the final minute.

"Perhaps this is the end of our infamous second half problems," said Chung Mong-Joon, president of the Korean Football Association and FIFA's new Asian vice-president.

Chung, a multi-millionaire who controls the world's largest shipyard, is determined to bring the World Cup to South Korea and he made no attempt to hide his delight at their first result here.

"I'm delighted, I'm very, very happy," he beamed.

Coach Kim Ho knows that his side must perform well here to prove they have become an international force to be reckoned with.

This is South Korea's fourth appearance at the World Cup finals, but they have never won a game, unlike North Korea who stunned the football world in the 1966 World Cup when they beat Italy 1-0 to move into the second round.

But the draw, sweet revenge for their 3-1 drubbing by Spain in the 1990 World Cup in Italy, South Korea's World Cup campaign is on track.

Kim knows his country's desire to host the Cup in putting extra pressures on his players but he is convinced they will be able to cope.

"We know our responsibilities and we accept them. We are comfortable," he said.

It was Kim's decision to replace midfielder Kim Joo-Sung with Seo Jung-Won for the final 30 minutes that allowed South Korea to earn the draw.

The 23-year-old Seo is the sides' fastest player and his arrival immediately posed major problems for Spain's solid but immobile defence.

"Everyone was suffering from the heat and I decided to bring in Seo to give our attack some bite. I think it worked," Kim said.

Before the tournament got underway, former Bayern Munich coach Detmar Cramer, who led South Korea to the 1992 Olympics, had warned it would be foolish to underestimate the Asian side.

"The Koreans are unbelievably comfortable with the ball and very fast. What they lack is international experience. Whoever underestimates this team can be punished," said Cramer.

It would also be a mistake to underestimate the 43-year-old Chung Mong-Joon's determination to bring the 2002 World Cup to South Korea.

World Cup theft!

BANGKOK, June 19: Thieves hauled away two bank safes containing nearly 1 million baht (dhs 40,000) after the guard abandoned his post to watch World Cup soccer, a newspaper reported Sunday, reports AP.

The robbery at the Siam Commercial Bank branch in Chiang Mai, 560 kilometres (350 miles) north of Bangkok, took place after midnight Friday, while people in this soccer-crazy country were glued to television sets for live World Cup coverage.

One of the safes weighed almost 100 kilograms (220 pounds), so police believe at least four thieves were involved, the Bangkok Post reported. It said the guard discovered the break-in at 5 am (1800 GMT) Saturday.

Of a withering Wimbledon

LONDON, June 19: Comradeship and charisma may be lacking at the All England Club when the championships open on Monday, but there will be nostalgia in bucketfuls as Martina Navratilova plays her last Wimbledon, reports Reuter.

With headlines such as "battle of the bores" and "charisma crisis" British newspapers have bemoaned what they see as a dearth of excitement and personalities in the modern game.

World number one Pete Sampras, quoted by bookmakers as 5-4 favourite, is an extremely powerful and accomplished player, but his style does not often thrill and he shows little emotion.

Spectators hanker after the drama, humour and tantrums which accompanied John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors or Ilie Nastase onto the centre court.

Sampras, 22, is unrepentant. "I don't see why I should defend myself for being polite and having manners and going out there and trying to win," he said recently.

But Sampras does have one regret — a lack of camaraderie in the men's circuit, ruled as it is by a punishing schedule and the pursuit of money.

"When I was very young Rod Laver and Ken Rosewall were my heroes," he said. "But what I liked about them most was that in company with other great Australians like John Newcombe, Tony Roche and Fred Stolle they all rooted for each other."

"Today the top 10 guys are not all that close," Sampras added. "Today's game is so competitive and there is so much money in the sport you do not see so much of the other guys. I often wish I could have played in those days of Laver and company."

The women's game is also money-driven now and lacks the depth required to produce real competition.

Few will bet against Germany's Steffi Graf winning her sixth singles title and she is an 11-4 on favourite.

Although the up-and-comer Mary Pierce beat her in the semifinals at the French Open, Graf on grass is a different prospect.

Navratilova, playing her 21st and last Wimbledon describes the women's game today as "Steffi and the seven drafts."

Navratilova, now 37, will be the crowd's choice to lift her 10th singles title, though her reactions at the net are a touch slower and her movements round the court a metre behind her heyday of the mid-eighties.

The Czech-born American, whose share wit and intelligent observations will be sorely missed at circuit news conferences where platitudes abound, is finding her last season hard to take.

She is determined to play "like any other Wimbledon player" — like another tournament.

But she dreads the prospect of being beaten on an outside court instead of her beloved centre court.

"Should I start losing out there on court two, I could just as well start crying at that moment. What's going to be hard is keeping my mind on the task in hand, which is to get the ball back, get the first serve in, whatever it takes," she said.

Navratilova still find comradeship on the women's circuit and says what she will miss is the arriving at a venue and knowing everyone there. "It's like a Gypsy travelling family," she said.

But any Gypsy traveller who beats her during the next two weeks will win no points for popularity among the sentimental crowds of south west London.



Kiwi keeper Adan Parore watches in awe as England captain Mike Atherton lashes at a short ball outside the off stump during the second day of the second Test between England and New Zealand at Lord's on Friday. — AFP photo

