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Clemente calls it discrimination

LISLE, Illinois, June 20: Spanish coach Javier Clemente accused FIFA of discrimination Sunday for suspending ejected defender Miguel Angel Nadal for two games instead of the usual one match, reports AP.

"I think it's totally unfair and out of proportion," Clemente said. "I don't understand it."

"I can't say anything else until I get official confirmation of the decision," he said.

Nadal, Spain's team captain, was shown the red card by Danish referee Peter Mikkelson early in Friday's game against South Korea after flooring a Korean forward on the edge of the penalty area.

A red card normally entails a one-game suspension. FIFA, soccer's governing body, extended that to two Sunday, for Nadal and Bolivia's Marco Etcheverry in a new crackdown on rough play.

Clemente, 44, said the tackle didn't even deserve an expulsion.

Nadal "got the ball and it's not as if he left the Korean injured," he said.

"But a lot of these referees from central Europe or northern countries like Denmark are sometimes difficult when it comes to things like this," he said.

Clemente apparently plans to fill Nadal's sweeper position with Real Madrid midfielder Fernando Hierro for Tuesday's game against defending world champions Germany at Soldier Field in Chicago.

All about Foxboro Stadium

FOXBORO, Massachusetts, June 20: The Foxboro Stadium, smallest of the World Cup venues with a capacity of 53,144 for soccer, hosts its first match on Tuesday — the Group D clash between Argentina and Greece, reports Reuter.

The stadium home of the New England Patriots football team, was built in 1970, 50 kms south of Boston.

The record attendance of 61,000 was set in 1990 at a Grateful Dead rock concert. It held Pink Floyd concerts only last month.

The capacity of the stands at each end of field was reduced to make room for a standard soccer pitch.

All the stands — three tiers along the sides, two at one end and one below the giant scoreboard are uncovered.

Boston — and its Foxboro Stadium — was named last week among seven cities which will compete in the major league soccer professional series starting next year.

Claggy Koreans worry Azkargorta

BOSTON, June 20: The South Koreans, fresh from their dramatic 2-2 draw with Spain, arrived in Boston to meet Bolivia in the second match of Group C. But the Bolivian coach, affectionately called "El Bigot" for his huge mustache, is worrying the Koreans most, reports AP.

After a 3 1/2-hour flight from Dallas, the Koreans went for a quick practice session on Saturday. On Sunday, they were told to rest and watch their Bolivian rivals on video.

The Bolivians have proved that they cannot be taken lightly," said Korean coach Kim Ho, referring to the June 17 match when the men from La Paz conceded only one goal to world champion Germany in the World Cup opener.

Much of the Bolivian soccer success credit goes to Xavier Azkargorta, the Bolivian coach, who was written off by many after his appointment in 1992.

But the 41-year-old Spaniard steered the team to the World Cup finals for the first time since 1950 and was voted Bolivia's Man of the Year. On game days he is a human dynamo, giving instructions to his team from the officials' box.

The Koreans said they'll put up their usual play.

"We'll play our normal style," Kim said. "And the emphasis will always be speedy counterattacks into the rival's territory."



SUPER SUB: Norwegian Kjetil Rekdal celebrates after coming on to score the only goal in the World Cup Group E match between Norway and Mexico at the RFK Memorial Stadium in Washington on Sunday.

After all, brothers

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 20: Brazilian midfielder Rai said his brother Socrates, a former team star, has been his main counselor to get out of a slump which almost took him off the starting roster, the Jornal do Brasil reported Sunday, reports AP.

"We've talked a lot and he's the first person I call whenever there's a problem. He's really helped me a lot," Rai said.

Socrates starred as a midfielder on the 1982 and 1986 Brazilian squads. He now works as a doctor in his hometown Ribeirao Preto, and has been instrumental in guiding brother Rai back to his best form.

Rai was a two-time world club (Toyota Cup) champion as captain of Sao Paulo in 1992 and 1993 before being sold to Paris Saint Germain.

Sluggish play in the French league and Brazilian squad exhibition matches cost Rai prestige, and public opinion polls showed countrymen wanted him off the roster.

But manager Carlos Alberto Parreira insisted that Rai would regain his form and help make Brazil world champion again.

Good play in Brazil's recent tuneups has guaranteed Rai a position on the starting lineup in its Monday opener against Russia.

For Spain, pressure is on



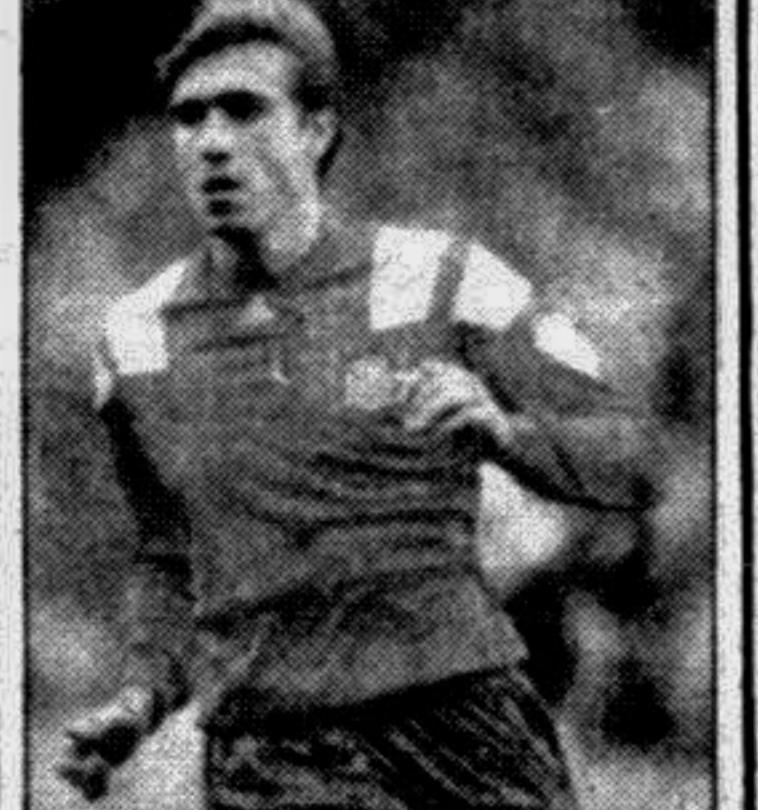
CHICAGO, June 20: The pendulum of pressure has swung from defending champions Germany to Spain ahead of Tuesday's World Cup Group C clash, reports Reuter.

While the Germans had to survive the ordeal of opening the tournament with a 1-0 victory over Bolivia, a 2-2 draw with South Korea has left the Spaniards needing a good result against the world champions to stay in contention in the group.

They have problems they could do without. Captain Miguel Angel Nadal is suspended for two games after being sent off against the Koreans and key defender Fernando Hierro has a calf injury.

History is also against the Spaniards. They have lost their two previous clashes with the Germans in the World Cup finals.

But Spanish morale is



JULIO SALINAS surprisingly upbeat.

"One win from two games, that's all we need," coach Javier Clemente said. "Our luck will have to change but we have no worries at all about the future."

Nadal's strength in the air would have been a major help to the Spaniards in the sweater's role behind the back four, especially against German striker Juergen Klinsmann.

The tall, powerful Hierro is expected to win his fitness battle and take over Nadal's role in defence.

Veteran Andoni Zubizarreta will return in goal in place of Jose Santiago Canizares. "Zubi" was banned from the South Korean match after receiving a red card in Spain's final qualifying match.

A great deal will be demanded of veteran striker Julio Salinas who scored Spain's opening goal against the Koreans. Salinas has been out of favour at his club Barcelona this season but has kept his place in the national side.

Germany coach Beti Vogts listed Salinas as one of the players the Germans needed to watch.

"I think Spain might play for a point and try and get three points against Bolivia," Vogts said.

But there was no question of the world champions playing for a point, he said. "We can't play defensively with our game. We created a lot of

chances against Bolivia and did not use them. If we win 1-0 I will be very happy."

Vogts is sticking to his policy of keeping his team secret until just before kickoff.

Thomas Strunz is expected to return on the right side of midfield after missing the Bolivia game because of a thigh injury.

Borussia Dortmund striker Karl Heinz Riedle, disappointing in the opening game, will probably lose his place, leaving midfielder Andy Moeller to take on an attacking role with Klinsmann up front.

PROBABLE TEAMS

GERMANY: 1-Bodo Illgner,

10-Lothar Matthaeus, 3-Andreas Brehme, 14-Thomas Beihold, 4-Jerjen Kohler, 20-Stefan Effenberg, 16-Matthias Sammer, 2-Thomas Strunz, 8-Thomas Haessler, 7 Andy Moeller, 18-Juergen Klinsmann.

SPAIN: 1-Andoni Zubizarreta, 2-Alberto Fernandez, 5-Abelardo Fernandez, 18-Rafael Alkorta, 4-Francisco Camrasa, 6-Fernando Hierro, 7-Juan Goikoetxea, 10-Jose Maria Baker, 15-Jose Luis Caminero, 21-Luis Enrique Martinez, 19-Julio Salinas.

Referee: Ernesto Filippi (Uruguay).

Kick-off: 2000 GMT.

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Despite several excellent games for Sweden and at the club level, Ravelli never received any serious offers from abroad.

The Republic of Ireland has shortened to 16-1 to win the World Cup after its 1-0 victory over Italy Saturday.

British bookmakers Ladbrokes has moved the Irish from 25-1, while Italy have moved from 5-1 to 8-1.

Following their 3-1 shocker over Colombia, Romania have moved from 40-1 to 33-1, while the south Americans eased from 7-1 to 12-1.

Germany and Brazil remain equal favourites at 3-1.

Spain are the best backed team in the Cup, having moved from 22-1 early last week to 16-1, while Saudi Arabia remain on 500-1 with a lone 10-pound (lirs 15) wager placed on it.

Coach Berti Vogts let his players meet with their families or girlfriends and gave them free time until 11 pm.

Bianca Illgner, wife of goalkeeper Bodo Illgner, caused a controversy last week when she told a German magazine the soccer federation was childlike by not allowing players to stay with their wives or girlfriends during the tournament.

Traditionally, German soccer officials allow family visits only after game days during World Cup tournaments.

Jose Henonin, a spokesman for the private, commercial chartering company TAESA in Mexico City, said the plane was an Executive Learjet with two crewmen and 10 passengers. He said the passengers were headed to Washington for World Cup soccer.

The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Whitney Houston, one of the world's most popular female vocalists, will headline the dazzling World Cup USA '94 pre-game final ceremony July 17 at the Rose Bowl in Los Angeles. The 25-minute ceremony will include a cast of thousands.

Living in America would also make it easier for Ravelli to follow his favourite American sports.

"I love basketball," he says. "It's been exciting to watch the

NBA finals over here. I also like watching (American) football. I've seen many Super Bowl games, although they're usually on at the middle of the night in Sweden."

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