

WorldCupUSA94



Share The Passion



FIFA praises Germany, Romania

DALLAS, June 30: FIFA applauded the courage of Germany and Romania on Wednesday in sending two players home from the World Cup finals for offensive behaviour, reports Reuter.

Romania ejected striker Ioan Vladoiu on Wednesday for a particularly vicious foul and for insulting a team coach.

Germany ditched Stefan Effenberg from their squad on Tuesday for making a rude gesture to the crowd.

"It is very courageous of them to punish players who show bad behaviour in this way," said FIFA press officer Guido Tognoni.

"They did not take the easy option, which would have been to overlook what happened."

Sepp Blatter, general secretary of world soccer's governing body, said the teams' actions reflected the spirit of FIFA's campaign for fair play in the sport.

"People who do not show this spirit should not have any place in the World Cup," he said. "After Germany sent home Effenberg, Romania have also had the courage to do the same and this is good because we want to see the spirit of fair play at the World Cup."

"Fair play is nothing more than respect. Players, who do not respect their teammates, opponents, the hosts, spectators or the referees, should go home."

Vladoiu became the first Romanian to be sent off when he brought down Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat with a scything 'kick' four minutes after coming on to substitute in their meeting on June 22.

Effenberg made an obscene gesture with his middle finger at German fans during their game against South Korea on Monday in which he was substituted.

Blatter said FIFA would have suspended Effenberg had they been made aware of his gesture.

"If it had been reported to us, we would have suspended him maybe for more than one game, but we do not have the right to send him home," said Blatter.

Tognoni said FIFA was pleased with the general standard of behaviour from players during matches and the attitude of the national associations.

Trouble alla Tedesca

BONN, June 30: Stefan Effenberg's dismissal from the German World Cup squad for making an obscene gesture at fans was too severe a punishment, German newspapers agreed today, reports Reuter.

"Throwing Effenberg out could prove to be a nasty boomerang for the federal trainer," said the mass-circulation Bild.

The players were upset by coach Berti Vogts' decision to send the 25-year-old midfielder home after Monday's clash against South Korea, the paper said.

"The decision was bad for all of us," he quoted one player, Thomas Helmer, as saying. "The severity of the punishment will lead to considerable debate."

Munch's Abendzeitung asked: "Will Berti stumble over the Effenberg scandal? Will it cost him his job?"

Vogts himself said in Chicago on Wednesday that the players were not upset by the decision to throw out Effenberg and striker Juergen Klinsmann said the whole team had accepted it.

Franz Beckenbauer, who as trainer led the national team to its last World Cup victory in 1990, criticised Vogts' decision in several German newspapers.

"I am convinced the decision was wrong," he wrote in Abendzeitung.

Beckenbauer told Bild: "This punishment has ousted Effenberg as the squad's bogeyman. He's finished in Germany now and will have to end his career in Italy. The consequences of the punishment should have been fully thought out."

The German public was divided over the issue, with an ARD television survey of 58,000 people showing 52.3 per cent thought the punishment just while 47.7 per cent thought it too severe.

Effenberg meanwhile drank bottles of beer and chain-smoked cigarettes in the company of family and friends after his sacking, Bild reported.

His wife Martina told Bild that Effenberg had sold his story of the affair for 70,000 marks dollars (43,750).



COLOURFUL JAMBOREE: Tattooed Dutch fans with colourful crowns on their heads cheer on their team during their final group match against Morocco on Wednesday. Holland won 2-1. — AFP photo

Good riddance of bad rubbish

PRINCETON, NJ, June 30: It's tough for Norway to pack their bags after coming within a whisker of advancing to the second round of the World Cup, reports AP.

It's tougher still to leave with critics hissing "good riddance," and professing joy that Norway and their non-traditional playing style — derided as ugly, defensive and boring — were out of the Cup.

But coach Egil Olsen said that style — long forward passes and few fancy, crowd-pleasing plays — got Norway to the World Cup, and helped win their first Cup game ever.

If Norway hadn't ended up in "The Group of Death" with Italy, Mexico and Ireland, the four points from their 1-1-1 record could have been enough to advance.

Norway were eliminated after a 0-0 battle with Ireland on Tuesday at Giants Stadium. The team leaves its Princeton training camp Thursday.

"Our depression is up to the ceiling," said Olsen, meeting the press Wednesday at the team's hotel. "All we can do is look for a few bright spots."

"We played three games; one good, one bad and one average. It's worth remembering that even when we weren't playing at our best, we still played at a level with three of the world's best teams."

Critics don't want to remember that. British and Irish newspaper were glad to see Norway go, calling their style cautious, gutless and destructive to soccer.

Even other Nordics blasted the heartbroken team and its coach. "Shame on you Drillo [Olsen's nickname], shame on you boys," wrote the Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet. "Norway's World Cup fiasco is a victory for soccer."

In Denmark, the Ekstra Bladet newspaper said the Norwegians "sent the ball so high in the air that the air traffic controllers at nearby Newark Airport had to direct planes around Giants Stadium."

Olsen said he didn't care what newspapers said about his style, which he claims is the wave of the future. He was more interested in what other soccer coaches think.

"Italy have definitely followed us," said Olsen, about Italy using more long balls. "We will see more of the teams tending to do the same."

has accepted it." Meanwhile, Matthaeus has denied reports that Vogts had to seek his captain's permission before expelling Effenberg.

"Rubbish," said an angry Matthaeus here on Wednesday as the Germans tried to keep their rocky World Cup show on the road.

The expulsion was also a clear attempt by Vogts to reassert his authority on a squad divided by bickering over shoddy performances.

Vladoiu follows Effenberg

ARCAOIA, California, June 30: Romanian striker Ioan Vladoiu has been ejected from the Romanian World Cup squad for a red-card foul and bad behaviour, a team official said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Radu Timofte, spokesman for the Romanian Football Association, said Vladoiu would return home to Bucharest on Friday. The striker was sent off for fouling Switzerland's Stephane Chapuisat in a Group A match last Wednesday.

Vladoiu was the second player to be ejected from the tournament. Germany's Stefan Effenberg was removed from his team for making an obscene gesture at the crowd during a game.

Effenberg episode closed

CHICAGO, June 30: Germany coach Berti Vogts said on Wednesday he had no fears that Stefan Effenberg incident would upset the world champions as they prepared for Saturday's second round World Cup match, report agencies.

Vogts had thrown the midfielder out of his squad for making an obscene gesture at German fans during Monday's first round clash with South Korea.

The German players are known to have different views on whether Effenberg should have been booted out but Vogts said: "The players have had 24 hours off. They are not upset. I can't say there is a bad atmosphere. The decision has been made. The way he behaved there is no way back for him (into international football)."

The player has already sold the rights for his story to a major German sports magazine for 50,000 marks (80,000 dollars) but Vogts said he was not worried the Fiorentina player's comments would upset the team.

Stefan Effenberg

The matter is over and we have to concentrate on football. We don't need discussions, we need concentration.

Striker Juergen Klinsmann added: "It has been discussed. It was a hard decision but it was made and the whole team



STEFAN EFFENBERG

Tragedy strikes Bolivian team

REETOWN, Mass. June 30: One woman was killed and three men associated with the Bolivian soccer team were injured in a single-car crash, state police said Thursday, reports AP.

Sandra Rocha, 20, of Marblehead suffered fatal injuries when she was thrown out of the vehicle when it overturned twice after hitting the median strip on Route 24 Wednesday morning, said Trooper Robert Brooks. The car was driven by the victim's mother.

Rocha was flown to Boston City Hospital and died there Wednesday night.

Another passenger, Daniel Forges, 26, suffered head and neck injuries but was released from Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River Thursday.

Brooks said Forges was not a player on the team but was associated with it in an unknown capacity.

Two players who were in the car — midfielder Julio Baldvieso, 22, and defender Miguel Rimba, 27 — suffered scrapes in the crash. They flew home Wednesday afternoon, Brooks said.

The car was driven by Ruth Nobrega, 43, also of Marblehead. She was not hurt.

Eng 199 for four

MANCHESTER, England, June 30: England were 199-4 at close of play on the opening day of the third and final Test against New Zealand at Old Trafford on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Scoreboard on the opening day of the third and final cricket Test between England and New Zealand at Old Trafford on Thursday:

ENGLAND: Atherton not out 96, Stewart c Pringle b Nash 24, Gooch c Young b Nash 0, Smith b Owens 13, Hick c Nash b Owens 20, White not out 42, Extras: (lb-3, w-1) 4, Total: (For four wickets) 199, To bat -- S Rhodes, P De Freitas, A Fraser, P Such, D Gough.

Fall of wickets: 1-37; 2-37; 3-68; 4-104

Bowling: O M R W, Nash 26 8 53 2, Owens 21 7 67 2, Pringle 27 11 50 0, Hart 13 7 18 0, Thomson 3 0 8 0

Germany blank South Africa

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, June 30: Results on the sixth day of the seven nations men's hockey Trophy tournament today, as reports Reuter: Germany 4, South Africa 0 (halftime 2-0).

Scorers: Christian Blunck (8th min), Christoph Bechmann (18th), Sven Meinhardt (47th, penalty stroke), 59th (penalty corner).

Milla wants more power

SAN FRANCISCO, California, June 30: Roger Milla, Came-room's most famous footballer, wants a top job in the country's soccer hierarchy so he can eradicate the problems that undermined their World Cup campaign in the United States, reports AFP.

Milla, 42, is already the administrative director of Cameroon's national teams but is seeking a more important position. "I'm given a post of responsibility, why not? I have had 22 years with the national team. I do not want to abandon them now," said Milla, who will finally hang up his boots after finishing the season back home with Tonnerre Yaounde.

The post of national coach is likely to be up for grabs with the contract of Cameroon's World Cup coach, former

French manager Henri Michel, expiring at the end of July.

A pay dispute, which led to threats of a strike before they met Brazil, and governmental intervention from back home over selection, causing goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell's removal from the team, undermined Cameroon's campaign.

Milla, the entertainer of the 1990 World Cup, admitted the 1994 finals had been tough for Cameroon.

As he digested their humiliating 6-1 loss against Russia on Tuesday in his final international, at 42 the oldest man to play in a World Cup, said: "It remains a very sad World Cup. There were a lot of things which happened before the finals. I was insulted."

Of Cameroon football officials, he added: "Certain people said at 42 I could not play — I could not even run. They did not have confidence in me, even here during the World Cup."

But Milla, earning his 105th cap, scored in the 47th minute against the Russians. It was his first touch after coming on at half time for Louis Mfiede.

"It was not about revenge, but it proved I could help the country," said Milla, now the oldest man to score in international soccer history.

Milla added: "There was no team spirit, not even before the World Cup. We knew we were pretending. It's too bad, especially when you are playing. Some people tried to influence the young players because it's easy. If we had been concentrated on the World Cup, we would not have had that result against Russia."

Milla added that the settling of their pay row came too late. "We had been lied to for so long. The players no longer wanted to play. In some way the defeat may help," said Milla, who urged the introduction of new faces to bring Cameroon's soccer out of its slump.

World Cup notebook

UNDATED, June 30 (AP): In Europe, it's the British fans. In the Western Hemisphere — the Mexicans.

And soccer is coming to the United States — at least in the violent way. As many as 4,000 people, many of them Mexican immigrants or Mexican-Americans, staged a rowdy celebration in Huntington Park, Calif., after Mexico's 1-1 tie with Italy guaranteed the team a spot in the second round.

Throng of people, some waving Mexican flags, walked or drove through town. Some threw trash cans into the street and sent geysers of water gushing from fire hydrants. Helmeted police arrived and were showered with rocks, bottles and telephone books. Police fired off gas canisters and rubber pellets as they chased away throngs of youths.

A 3-year-old girl was struck by a bottle, but her condition was not immediately known. A dozen arrests had been made by late Tuesday night, including one for assault with a deadly weapon involving a firearm, said Lt. Steve Peeler.

Comparatively, it wasn't too bad. In Mexico City, rampaging youths smashed car windows and beat the man to death. Another man died after falling off the roof of a hijacked bus, and at least 150 people were injured Wednesday, 16 of them seriously.

"People were hitting other people with bottles and sticks and running all about," said Elisa Alvarez, 49, of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Good news can be dangerous to your health.

The Greek coach is blaming (tongue in cheek) World Cup rules. Alkis Panagoulis, in one of his rare light moods, said his team's losses were "due to World Cup rules which only permits two substitutes in every game. At the end of the first half against Argentina, I would have replaced if I could, the entire team."

Greece, a debutant in the World Cup, was trounced by Argentina and Bulgaria with identical scores, 4-0. But he said against Nigeria Thursday his team will play better. Against Nigeria we intend to put on our best performance with our strongest eleven. We'll play fair in an attempt to win one golden point, the first in our history in (World Cup)."

Wally Yip, who runs a dry cleaning business in Metairie, La., has a chance to forget about stained sweaters and rumpled dresses for the rest of his life. Yip, 44, was selected at random by the Gillette Co. to take part in a contest at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., on July 4. If he kicks a soccer ball 15 metres through a four-foot (1.20-metre) diameter opening, he wins \$1 million.

"I have been in a state of shock," Yip said. "Andy Warhol (the late pop artist) said that everyone gets his 15 minutes of fame and my time has arrived." To prepare for his moment, Yip is getting some tips from Kyle Rote Jr., a former star for the US national team.

"I hope Kyle has some good pointers for me," Yip said. "I've never really played soccer, but for a million dollars I'm willing to learn fast."

It will not be easy for goalie Choi In-young to forget his team's 3-2 loss to Germany, a game that eliminated South Korea from the World Cup. "I am finished as a national player, no more for Korea," he told The Associated Press from his hotel in Grapevine, Texas. "I am not comfortable any more, the three goals will haunt me forever."

"I have played for my country for 10 years, had many golden moments and many bad moments, but losing in the World Cup is different." Germany took a 3-0 lead in the first half, and coach Kim Ho replaced Choi for the second half.

"My substitution was in the interest of my country," the goalie said. "I am sad but not bitter." Choi, like other South Korean players, is \$50,000 richer for playing in the World Cup. "Money can not return my honor," he said.

Unlucky sextet

DALLAS, Texas, June 30: Football's governing body, FIFA, is expected to drop six referees for the second round World Cup matches, reports AP.

A FIFA source said Wednesday that American referee Arturo Angelos, Lim Kee Chong from Mauritius and Swedens Bo Karlsson would be discarded for not giving enough protection to Argentina's Diego Maradona and Brazil's Romario.

Angelos was in charge of Argentina's match with Greece. Karlsson handled Argentina versus Nigeria and Chong refereed Brazil's game against Russia.

Spain's Manuel Diaz Vega, Italy's Fabio Baldas and Uruguay's Ernesto Filipi Cavani were also not expected to take any further part in the tournament.

FIFA, in an attempt to stamp out foul play, said before the tournament started that players, tackling from behind should be sent off.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 26 mins and a Cryptquip section at the bottom.

Cryptquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-51 and a solution key at the bottom.

GIJYTUCV JTO YTUQX - LOC'K PICCOLK, U KIUX, 'CA OQZAG PIYLACU, AC JTO JIZQO. Yesterday's Cryptquip: I GUESS MY FILTHY MIRROR REFLECTS POORLY ON MY HOUSEKEEPING SKILLS. Today's Cryptquip clue: Y equals C. The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.