



Share The Passion



Haessler nobody's slave

CHICAGO, July 5: Germany coach Bert Vogts attacked Italian side Roma on Sunday for what he called the "slavery" of his midfielder Thomas Haessler and called on FIFA to negotiate his release from the club, report agencies.

Haessler, one of the most impressive players in Germany's World Cup victory over Belgium on Saturday, has not had his contract renewed by Roma.

But Roma, anxious to recoup some of the cash spent on a 15-player close-season spending spree, have slapped a transfer fee of at least 5 million dollars on his head.

Vogts said: "What is happening with Thomas Haessler at Roma has to do with slavery. I think FIFA should intervene. You can't tie up a player and say eight to 10 million marks (5-6 million dollars) are needed and there are no other deals."

"FIFA or UEFA have to do something to find a solution." The diminutive Haessler's crosses and free-kick expertise have been crucial in guiding Germany into the quarter-finals.

In the first three games it was Haessler who provided the inspiration for all of striker Jurgen Klinsmann's four goals.

Few Bundesliga teams could afford Haessler at the present price. Bayern Munich, the league's richest club, is unlikely to be able to offer making several key expensive signings.

"I am a bit disappointed that no Bundesliga side has managed to rip him away from Roma," Vogts said. "The way he is playing here he would en-

rich the league." Haessler said he had tried to forget about his club problems and concentrate on the World Cup.

"I do not feel any burden. I have tried to play here without thinking about anything else," he said. "So far I have been successful."

"Roma have a new president and he has promised the fans that they will win the championship. They have bought new players and I would be one of seven foreigners and have no chance of playing."

"If a Bundesliga side said they were interested I would be happy to listen."

The policy of Italian clubs buying up handfuls of foreigners and only being allowed to play three of them at one time was often been criticised outside of the country. Many top



THOMAS HAESSLER

players, who would be guaranteed a place in most clubs elsewhere, have been forced to

sit in the stands.

When Germany won the World Cup in 1990 virtually all the players were earning their living in Italy. Most have returned home.

Haessler joined Roma in 1991 and his contract expired June 30, but the Italian club still holds his rights.

Vogts has encouraged German clubs to bring national team players back to Germany, but few of them can afford to pay the salaries and transfer fees common in Italy and some other foreign leagues.

Several German stars are having contract problems.

Striker Jurgen Klinsmann, who has five goals in this World Cup, was unable to find a club willing to pay a transfer fee of dms 4 million and is likely stay another season with the French club Monaco.

Monaco reached the semi-finals of the European Champions Cup this past season but didn't qualify for any of next year's Pan-European tournaments.

Rudi Voeller, the 34-year-old forward who was the hero of Germany's 3-2 victory over Belgium with two goals, could also be without a job after the World Cup.

However, he reportedly has received an offer of a two-year extension from his French club Marseille.

Voeller is reluctant to stay in Marseille because the club has been demoted to the second division following a bribery scandal. The team was also banned from defending its European Champions Cup title last season.

According to sources, Voeller would consider staying in Marseille for another season and then seek to end his career in the J-League in Japan.

Another WC jail break

BANGKOK, July 5: Three prisoners made their run-away in southern Thailand as warden were immersed in watching World Cup soccer of television, police said Tuesday, reports Xinhua.

The three inmates reportedly smashed through the concrete wall of their cell at the Muang district police station in the southern province of Satun early Monday, but warden did not hear Romania match on TV.

Another escape took place on June 23 in the Bangkok suburb of Samut Prakan. Inmates got away from a juvenile detention centre as warden were watching in early World Cup match.

FIFA's sympathy with Colombia

DALLAS, July 5: FIFA said on Monday the soccer world must show solidarity with Colombia after the killing of World Cup player Andres Escobar, reports Reuters.

In Colombia, local news reports said the assistant coach of the national team had decided against taking over from outgoing coach Francisco Maturana after the murder in Medellin last Saturday.

The reports said Hernan Dario Gomez had not spoken to reporters since the shooting. There was no immediate comment from the Colombian soccer federation.

Escobar, a 27-year-old defender, was gunned down as he argued with a man while leaving a restaurant.

The argument appeared to be over the goal Escobar accidentally scored against his own team during their 2-1 first-round defeat by the United States. Colombia were knocked out of the tournament in the first round.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter again condemned the killing on Monday and told reporters: "This was the most criminal act we have faced so far in football."

"Nobody will understand and everybody will condemn." He dismissed talk of any possible action against Colombian soccer, plagued by the influence of drug barons in a decade of terror, and said the opposite was needed.

"We have to show solidarity with Colombian football to help them. If our sport can help to minimise criminal acts we shall do so," he said. "The solidarity must go on, not only during this World Cup but also after it."

A Colombian referee was shot dead in 1989, the national championships were suspended for a season and the country's 1990 World Cup squad was almost disbanded.

Most of the problems have stemmed from Medellin, once the world's cocaine-trafficking capital.

Tens of thousands of mourners attended Escobar's burial in southern Medellin on Sunday, along with Colombian president Cesar Gaviria and members of the national team.

Police later arrested Humberto Munoz Castro, 42, who they said confessed to having committed the crime.

Munoz told local television Sunday as he was being escorted to a Bogota prison that he did not know who Escobar was when he shot him.

Police said the killing was not premeditated despite suspicions it was related to death threats made against the team weeks before.

Drug traffickers allegedly bet thousands of dollars in favour of the team and were rumoured to have wanted revenge for its dismal performance.

Laudrup signs for Real Madrid

MADRID, July 5: Danish international midfielder Michael Laudrup signed a two-season contract with Real Madrid on Monday and predicted that his new team would break the winning streak of his former club and Real's arch rivals, Barcelona, reports Reuters.

Laudrup decided to transfer to Real after a tense season which saw him cross swords with Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff who often overlooked the Dane in favour of the other three foreign players in the club's line up.

"I am sure Real Madrid will break Barcelona's hegemony. If not, I would not have come," Laudrup told reporters at a press conference at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid.

— AFP photo



NOT OUT FOR A JOG REALLY: Referee Roethlisberger from Switzerland who created quite a to-do in the World Cup by not awarding Belgium a penalty against Germany in the opener of the knock out phase on July 2 at the Soldier's Field Stadium in Chicago is pictured here immediately after the incident with the angry Belgian players persisting with the eventually abortive appeal.

— AFP photo

About ineffectual candour

DALLAS, July 5: Swiss referee Kurt Roethlisberger said on Monday he should have awarded Belgium a penalty during their 3-2 defeat by Germany and FIFA decided he would play no further part in the World Cup, reports Reuters.

He admitted that he made a mistake. He knows that's it for him," said FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter.

Blatter told reporters that Italian Pierluigi Paretto also failed to meet the expected standards for his performance during Romania's 3-2 second-round defeat of Argentina and would similarly be packing his bags early.

"They will not referee again in the tournament," Blatter said, adding that the final list of 10 referees and 12 linesmen would be announced in Dallas on Wednesday.

Belgian soccer authorities have slammed Roethlisberger's decision not to award a penalty in the 70th minute of the second-round match in Chicago and called on FIFA to send him home and ban him from refereeing another international.

Blatter said he had spoken to Roethlisberger about the Belgium-Germany game at the referee's request.

"He said that from where he was on the field of play he could not exactly see what happened. He had a doubt and decided not to whistle," said Blatter.

"He naturally regrets it is he, one of the best regarded referees in the competition, that made such a mistake. He only says 'I am so sorry for FIFA that it happened.'"

Roethlisberger, in his second World Cup finals, was earlier quoted telling Swiss tabloid Blick he realised he made a mistake when he saw a television replay of the foul by German defender Thomas Helmer on striker Josip Weber.

"I decided mistakenly. The Belgians were right to claim a penalty," he told the newspaper.

Belgian officials said the referee's decision was the turning point of the game. Had the penalty been awarded Helmer would have been sent off under the tough new rules aimed at preventing tackles from behind.

Blatter said Paretto should have given the offending Romanian player a red card instead of a yellow.

"It was a situation where there was foul play, a tackle. The referee stopped the game and put the ball back on the line of the box. Television showed it was inside the area."

"Tackling from behind and denying a goalscoring opportunity should have been met with a red card. We did not argue with him that he did not give a penalty kick."

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FIFA satisfied

DALLAS, July 5: FIFA said on Monday it was fully satisfied with World Cup security so far, and that there had been far fewer incidents than normally seen at major American sports events, reports Reuters.

Owing to the good spirit of fans and their overall attitude, there has been no evidence of hooliganism and no significant incidents have occurred so far, FIFA said in a statement.

There had been 312 arrests out of more than two million spectators attending matches at the nine stadiums and more than half that number were for touting black market tickets.

The fact that fans were not segregated has posed no problems to date. Fans have been seen to enjoy the matches peacefully with a positive and sporting attitude.

FIFA soccer's international governing body, said there had been only seven reported cases to date of fans trying to invade the pitch.

On the whole there were far fewer incidents than are usually documented at large-scale American sporting events, FIFA said.

Only 12 people had been arrested on charges of drunkenness and of the 833 people seeking medical treatment, more than 95 per cent were for heat-related problems.

Spaniards want a clear view of what's coming

BOSTON, Massachusetts, July 5: Perennial World Cup under achievers Spain, who surprised themselves with their second round win against Switzerland, are getting a sneak preview of their quarter-final opponents here, reports AFP.

The Spanish squad have snapped up tickets for Tuesday's clash between Nigeria and Italy. They play the winner at Boston's Foxboro Stadium on Saturday.

Barcelona's Jose Maria Bakero, an influential left-sided midfielder in coach Javier Clemente's Spanish side, thinks Italian flair and experience could prove too potent for the Nigerians.

"These teams play two different types of football," he said. "Nigeria are naive and they attack a lot. Italy are real tough competitors and for me they are the favourite."

But he does not rule out a surprise if Nigeria's brilliant strikers Rashidi Yekini and Emmanuel Amunike are on song.

"They have two great players there — there could be an upset."

Spain, in eight previous World Cup final appearances, have never got beyond the quarter-final stage, despite fielding some outstanding talent.

This time, Bakero believes, the side can fulfil its potential.

"We surprised ourselves against Switzerland," he said. "We showed that we can do better than expected. We can go all the way in this tournament."

He said Italy would prove a "more complicated" quarter-final opponent than Nigeria.

"But whoever we get, it will be tough."

The Spanish press have labelled Clemente's side dull and boring but the coach said "We got the the quarter-finals, that's what we set out to do."

Spain drew 1-1 with Germany, were held 2-2 by South Korea, and beat Bolivia 3-1 in group games before taking out the Swiss 3-0 in the second round in Washington on Saturday.

Clemente booked the side on an early flight Sunday morning from Washington to Boston, so they didn't have time for partying.

Govt to help ROK out

SEOUL, July 5: South Korea, who failed to get through the World Cup's first qualifying round in the US, are to get a helping hand from the government in a bid to improve their chances in France in 1998, reports Reuters.

An official at the Culture and Sports Ministry said on Tuesday the government had decided to boost the country's professional soccer clubs after the national team failed to win any of their three matches in the United States.

The government will try to improve existing facilities for domestic soccer, would provide support for professional soccer clubs and would try to promote young footballing talent.

Effenberg hits back at Vogts

CHICAGO, July 5: Outspoken German midfielder Stefan Effenberg, kicked out of the World Cup last week for making an obscene gesture at the crowd during a match, has accused the German camp of spying on him during the finals, reports Reuters.

In an interview with the German magazine Sport Bild, Effenberg, who has often been in trouble during his career for outrageous behaviour and comments in public, alleged that coach Bert Vogts and his assistant Rainer Bonhof had been watching him closely off the field.

"It happened in the night before the (first-round) game against Spain," the 25-year-old Fiorentina player was quoted as saying in extracts of the interview made available on Monday, two days before publication.

"I couldn't get to sleep, got up and went to the toilet when I heard a noise. Half asleep, I went to the peep-hole in the door and my eyes opened wider and wider. Rainer Bonhof was there with his ear to the door waiting for a few seconds to see if he could hear anything."

"I thought I should just bang on the door or open it for a minute and ask him if he wanted to look out of my window. When I told the players about it, they didn't believe it."

Vogts said Effenberg's international career was finished after he stuck his middle finger up at the crowd when they were whistling at him during the world champions first round match with South Korea in Dallas.

Effenberg, who said Vogts decided to kick him of the squad was "ridiculous" and did not have the backing of all the

players, who would be guaranteed a place in most clubs elsewhere, have been forced to

rich the league." Haessler said he had tried to forget about his club problems and concentrate on the World Cup.

"I do not feel any burden. I have tried to play here without thinking about anything else," he said. "So far I have been successful."

"Roma have a new president and he has promised the fans that they will win the championship. They have bought new players and I would be one of seven foreigners and have no chance of playing."

"If a Bundesliga side said they were interested I would be happy to listen."

The policy of Italian clubs buying up handfuls of foreigners and only being allowed to play three of them at one time was often been criticised outside of the country. Many top

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squad, sold his story exclusively to the magazine for 50,000 marks (31,300 dollars) and donated the money to a charity in Ghana.

He said Vogts had also waited for him to return from driving his wife to her hotel after a party at the German camp. "He was suddenly there (by the lift at 1045 pm). He knew I would be getting out of the lift. It was like my every move was being watched."

Effenberg criticised the 47-year-old Vogts' style and some of his comments about the World Cup.

"When I am 47 I won't make the mistake of talking about free rides (for players to the World Cup) or whether I will return home as a hero or a traitor to the fatherland. Vogts makes life difficult for himself," he was quoted as saying.

"He puts himself under too much pressure. He puts the players under so much pressure that they feel insecure and then have to deal with criticism."

The former Bayern Munich player said Vogts also treated the players differently.

"Look at Thomas Berthold. Thomas criticised the trainer in public after the Spanish game. Then Bert Vogts said in the team meeting, 'Now, Thomas, that was positive criticism.'"

"I sat at the back and said to myself: I have landed in a wrong film. If I had said that I would have been sent home before the Korean game, 100 per cent."

Vogts knew the controversial interview would be published this week and said he did not think it would upset the team who have already booked their place in the quarter-finals. The Germans were enjoying a day off on Independence Day on Monday.

Effenberg, who said he was thinking of ending his international career after 33 caps, said he had no chance to show he was sorry. "It was final whistle, boo, plane, chat in coach's room, and out."



Dutch forward Dennis Berkamp (2nd R) is smothered by teammates Peter Van Vossen (19), Wim Wouters (8), and Marc Overmars after he opened the scoring against Ireland during their World Cup second round match in Citrus Bowl in Orlando on Monday. Holland won 2-0.

— AFP photo



MANCHESTER, July 5: Martin Crowe, ably assisted by the famed Manchester rain, enabled New Zealand to draw the third and final Test against England at Old Trafford today, reports Reuters.

A superb 115 by Crowe, begun on Saturday afternoon and one of the finest of the 17 Test centuries he has scored, frustrated England long enough in between showers for a draw to be finally agreed when rain returned again shortly before tea.

New Zealand were then on 308 for seven, a lead of 77 after being forced to follow on.

The draw left England 1-0 winners of the three-match series.

The result was just reward for New Zealand's resilient fightback after collapsing to 132 for five on Saturday when needing 231 to make England bat again.

Crowe, who scored 70 in New Zealand's first innings, received superb support from wicketkeeper Adam Parore who hit a Test best 71 in a partnership of 141, a New Zealand record for the sixth wicket against England.

Both were dismissed in the rain-shortened first session after New Zealand resumed at 253 for five, but further determined defiance by tailenders Matthew Hart, who made an unbeaten 16, and Dion Nash (six not out), held the England attack at bay long enough before the rain decided the issue.

Crowe had resumed on 94 and Parore 66 and neither appeared troubled while England waited to take the new ball.

Soon after it became available, paceman Phil DeFreitas struck as Parore failed to get over an intended square cut and Graham Gooch took a fine catch, tumbling to his left in the gully.

Crowe's innings ended soon afterwards, edging a catch to Graeme Hick at second slip, again off the bowling of DeFreitas who ended with figures of three for 60 from 30 overs.

DeFreitas has been England's key bowler during the series, taking 21 wickets at an

average of just over 21 apiece.

Crowe, in what he has said was his last Test in England, could not have played an innings more fitting of the occasion. He hit 15 boundaries and faced 237 in a stay of more than five and a half hours, batting always in an imperious fashion that belied the desperate trouble his side was in.

Without him, England would have wrapped up the match long before the rain dealt the deciding hand.

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Parore c Gooch b DeFreitas 71
Hart not out 16
Nash not out 6

Extras: (b-8, lb-13, nb-5) 26
Total: (for seven wickets) 308
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-34, 3-48, 4-73, 5-132, 6-273, 7-287.

Did not bat: C. Pringle, M. Owens.

Bowling: O M R W
DeFreitas 30 6 60 3
Gooch 31.2 5 105 2
Fraser 19 7 34 1
White 14 3 36 1
Such 10 2 39 0
Gooch 2 0 13 0

Result: Match drawn
First Test: England won by an innings and 90 runs.
Second Test: Match drawn
England win series 1-0.

SA-Hampshire three-day match drawn

SOUTHAMPTON, England, July 5: South Africa utilised the opportunity of a rain-ruined game to give spinners Pat Symcox and Tim Shaw long and profitable spells on the final day of their match against Hampshire on Monday, reports Reuters.

Off-spinner Symcox and left-arm Shaw, bowled 42 of the 56 overs after almost half the day's play was washed out and between them they took all five wickets to fall.

Symcox finished with three for 92 and Shaw two for 59 but the slender chance of a positive result was denied by Hampshire's promising opening batsman Sean Morris who hit an unbeaten 101 as the match ended in a draw.

Hampshire had resumed only 58 ahead at 22 without loss in their second innings and the rain preventing any possibility of a contrived result.

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