



Share The Passion



Injury won't stop Matthaeus

CHICAGO, July 6: Germany captain Lothar Matthaeus said on Tuesday he expected to have recovered from a foot injury in time to make a record-equalling 21st World Cup final appearance in Sunday's quarter-finals against Bulgaria, reports Reuter.

The 33-year-old libero was unable to play the second-half of the World Champion's 3-2 second-round victory over Belgium on Saturday because of a cut on his right foot.

But Matthaeus, playing in his fourth World Cup final, now looks likely to equal the record number of appearances held jointly by his compatriot Uwe Seeler, Pole Wladyslaw Zmuda and Diego Maradona.

"I expect nothing to stand in my way of playing," the Bayern Munich player said. "I have a bit of pain but I expect to train fully by Friday. But I am not here to break records. It is what the team does that matters."

Matthaeus, who played his first World Cup match when he came on as a substitute in a first-round game against Chile at the 1982 finals in Spain, will almost certainly set a fresh mark if the Germans reach the semifinals.

He is already Germany's most capped player with 116

appearances compared to the 103 held by 1974 World Cup-winning captain and 1990 coach Franz Beckenbauer.



LOTHAR MATTHAEUS

Maradona was unable to break the record in the United States after being withdrawn for doping. Seeler was the first to reach 21 after playing at the 1958, 1962, 1966 and 1970

finals. Zmuda appeared at four World Cups between 1974 and 1986.

Germany coach Berti Vogts watched Bulgaria's second-round victory over Mexico after a penalty shoot-out on Tuesday.

Assistant coach Rainer Bonhof said: "It is going to be tough tango. It is probably better to get a European team but it won't be easy. We will not be underestimating them just because they went through on penalties."

Striker Juergen Klinsmann added: "They will be tough. They have an excellent forward line. It is always 50-50 when you get down to the knockout stage. But if we play the way we played against Belgium we can beat anyone."

The Germans have decided to fly in Germany's top sports doctor Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlhahrt to treat midfielder Thomas Strunz's problematic thigh strain. The Munich doctor, who was due to arrive at the team's camp near Chicago on Wednesday, treats many of Europe's players as well as tennis player Boris Becker.

The squad was reduced to 21 last week when Vogts sent home midfielder Stefan Effenberg for making an obscene gesture at the crowd during a first-round match against South Korea.

Soccer fatality

NAPLES, July 6: Italians joy over their soccer team's 2-1 victory over Nigeria was marred when a 15-year-old boy who fired a pistol in celebration accidentally killed his seven-year-old cousin, police said, reports Reuter.

Police said Salvatore Oliva died in hospital after he was hit by a bullet in the heart in the town of Herculaneum, near Naples, on Tuesday night.

The pistol was fired by his cousin. Police had earlier said the dead boy's uncle, Domenico Giampaglia, had fired the gun.

They said the uncle, who had a permit for the gun, had been accused of lax custody of a firearm for not having kept it out of the reach of the children.

In Mexico City, a few thousand fans, some disconsolate and others celebrating regardless, trooped to the capital's central area to mark their team's exit at the hands of Bulgaria.

Mindful of last week's violence when celebrations sparked by Mexico's 1-1 draw with Italy turned sour and left two people dead and scores injured, Mexico City authorities deployed 11,000 police and banned sales of alcohol.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or arrests.

Van Basten to undergo surgery

MILAN, July 6: AC Milan's Dutch striker Marco van Basten will undergo a third operation next week on the injured ankle which has kept him out of soccer for 18 months, the club said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The three-times European footballer-of-year, who has said the injury could end his career, was told last month he would need a further operation because the ankle, injured in December 1992, was not healing.

Van Basten, 29, is due to have surgery on Monday at the Apra Clinic in the Belgian city of Antwerp.

GOAL SCORERS

UNDATED (Reuter): Following are World Cup '94 goal scorers after Tuesday's matches:

- 6 Goals — Oleg Salenko (Russia).
- 5 Goals — Juergen Klinsmann (Germany).
- 4 Goals — Martin Dahlin (Sweden), Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina), Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria).
- Kennet Andersson (Sweden), Romario (Brazil), Gheorghe Hagi (Romania).
- 2 Goals — Florin Raduciotu (Romania), Jose Caminero (Spain), Juan Gorkoetxea (Spain), Ilie Dumitrescu (Romania), Georges Bregy (Switzerland), Adolfo Valencia (Colombia), Luis Garcia (Mexico), Fuad Amin (Saudi Arabia), Claudio Caniggia (Argentina), Hong Myong-Bo (South Korea), Daniel Amokachi (Nigeria), Rudi Voeller (Germany), Philippe Albert (Belgium), Wim Jonk (Netherlands), Dennis Bergkamp (Netherlands), Bebeto (Brazil), Roberto Baggio (Italy), Emmanuel Amunike (Nigeria).
- 1 Goal — Julio Salinas (Spain), Hwang Sun-Hong (South Korea), Soe Jung-Won (South Korea), Eric Wynalda (United States), Ray Houghton (Ireland), Marc Degryse (Belgium), Kjetil Rekdal (Norway), Roger Ljung (Sweden), David Embe (Cameroon), Francois Omam-Biyik (Cameroon), Rai (Brazil), Gaston Taument (Netherlands), Diego Maradona (Argentina), Bryan Roy (Netherlands), Rashidi Yekini (Nigeria), Finidi George (Nigeria), Alberto Garcia (Mexico), Alain Sutter (Switzerland), Stephane Chapuisat (Switzerland), Adrian Knup (Switzerland), Ernie Steart (United States), Dino Baggio (Italy), John Aldrige (Ireland), Marcio Santos (Brazil), Dmitry Radchenko (Russia), Tomas Brodin (Sweden), Sami Al Jaber (Saudi Arabia), Georges Grun (Belgium), Mohammed Chaouch (Morocco), Samson Siasia (Nigeria), Yordan Lechkov (Bulgaria), Daniel Borimirov (Bulgaria), Dan Petrescu (Romania), Harold Lozano (Colombia), Karlheinz Riedle (Germany), Wrwin Sanchez (Bolivia), Josep Guardiola (Spain), Daniele Massaro (Italy), Marcelino Bernal (Mexico), Fahd Al-Ghshyan (Saudi Arabia), Roger Milla (Cameroon), Saeed Owairan (Saudi Arabia), Hassan Nader (Morocco), Nasko Sirakov (Bulgaria), Fernando Hierro (Spain), Luis Enrique (Spain), Aitor Beguiristain (Spain), Abel Balbo (Argentina).

Revelry restores dread

ALLAS, July 5: Revelry of fans in Brazil and the Netherlands have reminded soccer's rulers that hooliganism still afflicts the game despite the relative absence of trouble at the World Cup, reports Reuter.

Middle America, long suspicious of soccer as a sport surrounded by thugs and lunatics, may so far have seen only capacity crowds enjoying trouble-free matches at USA '94.

But the news from abroad has been the same as ever, with tales of football fever in distant lands.

"Soccer is simply paying the price for being such a popular sport," said FIFA press officer Andreas Herren on Tuesday, shrugging off any suggestion that violence abroad might be overshadowing the tournament.

Fans in Brazil and the Netherlands battled with police on Monday after their teams set up a quarter-final clash.

"An enormous crowd had gathered in the centre (of The Hague), making it difficult to get the mob under control," a Dutch police spokesman said on Tuesday. Fifty Dutch supporters were arrested in the city.

Brazilian police said more than 50 people were hurt and more than 30 arrested in clashes in the southern city of Curitiba and the central eastern city of Uberlandia.

The fans, celebrating Brazil's 1-0 win over the United States in California, hurled stones and bottles at police, who responded with tear gas and baton charges.

The murder of a player in Colombia on Saturday, apparently for conceding an own goal that contributed to his country's early exit from the World Cup, was by far the most horrific incident to overshadow the tournament.

"Will this hideous murder be an excuse for Americans to fear or revile this sport?" Wondered a New York Times columnist on Sunday.

Americans, who tuned into the Brazil game in record numbers, have had plenty of other examples of soccer-related madness to contemplate as well.

In Sweden last month, a woman stabbed her partner dead with a pair of scissors after he forced her to stay awake in the early hours for a World Cup match.

After the killing, the woman

Bad news for Tab Ramos

MISSION VIEJO, Calif., July 6: US midfielder Tab Ramos suffered a fractured skull from an elbow by Brazil's Leonardo in their second-round World Cup clash and will be out of soccer for three months, a team spokesman said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Dean Linke said Ramos spent the night at a hospital near San Francisco and was discharged on Tuesday. He was returning to the US team's training camp here in southern California.



Martin Crowe raises his bat to acknowledge the applause from the crowd at Old Trafford after scoring his 17th Test century on July 5.



ANGUISH: Italian player Gianfranco Zola leans on an advertising board in utter disbelief after receiving a red card for a tackle on Nigerian Augustine Engvoen during a second round match at Foxboro Stadium in Boston on Tuesday. Italy won 2-1.

Parreira content

SAN JOSE, California, July 6: Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said on Tuesday he was happy to face the Netherlands rather than Ireland in Saturday's World Cup quarter-final in Dallas, reports Reuter.

The Dutch eliminated Ireland in the second round — much to the relief of Parreira, who admitted that his team had trouble against British-style aerial bombardment.

"The aerial game always causes more problems than a team that keeps the ball on the ground," he said.

Parreira, under fire because his team is seen as not as entertaining as past Brazilian sides, promised that their next match could be a thriller, depending on the attitude of the Europeans.

"If the Dutch come out and play, it will be a great game," he said.

"The trouble is that all the teams we've faced so far have changed their style against us."

"You're not going to get exciting football when one of the teams puts nine or 10 players behind the ball. In all of our games, we've been the only team wanting to play."

Parreira backed midfielder Zinho, jeered off by Brazilian fans when he was substituted in Monday's 1-0 win over the United States.

"Zinho has been fulfilling his tactical role perfectly, though I have seen him play better," he said.

Leonardo agonistes

SAN JOSE, California, July 6: Brazil fullback Leonardo said he had visited US midfielder Tab Ramos in hospital to apologise for elbowing him in the face during their World Cup second-round match on Monday, reports Reuter.

Leonardo, sent off in the 43rd minute for the aggression, denied the incident had been intentional, though he admitted it looked that way in the television replay.

The episode has amazed Brazilians as the Sao Paulo player is usually looked upon as a model professional.

"He was holding my arm and my natural reaction was to shake him off. Unfortunately, he was falling and I hit him in the face. I know it looked hard on the television but it wasn't intentional," he said.

"It was only when I saw the reaction of the other players that I realised what had happened."

"I wasn't getting worked up. I had no reason to be. We were enjoying our best spell of the game and I had managed to penetrate their defence a couple of times."

"To hit an opponent goes against my principles and all the things I stand for in football."

Leonardo said he had made a 15-minute visit to Ramos at a hospital in Stanford accompanied by Ricardo Teixeira, President of the Brazilian Football Confederation.

WORLD CUP DIARY

LOS ANGELES, July 6 (AFP): Wednesday's World Cup diary:

PRAYER POWER

Italy's astonishing extra-time victory over Nigeria was a good advert for the Catholic church. Before setting out for Boston the Italian squad, led by their devout coach Arrigo Sacchi, attended a specially arranged mass in their New Jersey hotel.

With Nigeria leading until two minutes from the end and Italy reduced to ten men, Sacchi's faith was tested to the limit, but finally his prayers were answered. It won't have escaped non-believers' notice, however, that Italy's salvation was delivered by Roberto Baggio — the country's most famous Buddhist.

EVERYTHING UP IN THE AIR

Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira warned his team Holland would be tough quarter-final opponents.

"They have such a good aerial game," Parreira said. "We like to keep the ball on the ground, so they will not suit our style."

NO APPLAUSE

Brazil may have beaten the United States, but forward Romario says they should not expect any applause for style.

"The team won with poor soccer. We were bad technically. With the players we have, we need to be much better if we don't want to go through the kind of suffocation we went through against the United States. The only reason we won was guts," Romario said.

I WANT TO BE ON TV

Nigerian fans were outnumbered by Italians in Boston on Tuesday, but they were obviously wise to the ways of getting on US television.

One group of green-clad fans held up a home-made sign that read "E-xcellent S-occer P-rogram in N-igeria," with the initials ESPN highlighted.

LESSONS FROM GERMANY

Brazil manager Carlos Alberto Parreira thinks his team can make it to the World Cup final on July 17.

He has no doubts that Germany can.

"They play now the same way they have played for the last eight years, and they've had nothing but success," he said. "Watching them is like going to soccer school."

NOT JUST A GAME

For fans who don't want to shell out upwards of 20 dollars for an officially licensed World Cup T-shirt, there's another solution — they make their own.

Best slogan spotted at the Rose Bowl: "Soccer is life the rest is just details."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	34 Tribute in verse	54 Audition goal	concert suffix
1 Pop's partner	35 Hudson costar	55 Addams Family's hirsute cousin	23 Convict's view, in part
4 Bat stats	36 Florist's supply	37 California resort	24 Actress McClurg
8 Reticent one	12 — Amin	13 Latin abbr.	25 Appellations, in Arles
14 Word often seen on samplers	39 — the season...	40 Court	26 Villain in a Steve McQueen film
15 Noted nickname in tennis	41 Prayer	42 1962 Broadway musical	27 Dry water channel
17 — the Roof (song)	45 Fatman's partner	48 1962 Broadway musical	28 Take down —
18 Key contribution to U.S. history?	49 1962 Broadway musical	50 Lotion	29 Johnny's successor
19 Proscription	51 Birthright	51 Birthright	32 Yule vocalist
21 Office-holders	52 Work on a sound-track	52 Work on a sound-track	33 Sherlock's portrayer
22 Noted British bell	53 Ink stain	53 Ink stain	35 Pair
26 Master, in jungle movies			36 Rectitude
29 Clamptt patriarch			38 Dessert, in Devonshire
30 Fuss			39 Bottom line
31 Track circuits			42 Big rig
32 Gridlock component			43 Skip
33 Lip			44 Barber-shop call

Solution time: 28 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER: 1-5

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CRYPTOQUIP
KLPF HLPYRM LR QJHXPJGZ
XYLZCY XCGSOYJG, YEYPGZ
OPK XPRRXY-QPRRE RPD:
"SLG EJC KDLMY PR?"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AWARE THAT THE BABY SWEATER SHE WAS MAKING WASN'T RIGHT, WOMAN HAD A KNITTED BROW.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals L. The Cryptoquip 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.