

## Sport

## Gearmann wins it for MSC

Sports Reporter

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## Only one way for Kaiser —up

BONN, Oct 7: Franz Beckenbauer's hair is thinning and greying fast, the glasses are a regular sight on his nose and the top job in the boardroom is beckoning. The Kaiser looks ready to control German soccer's corridors of power, reports Reuter.

Beckenbauer — once the bushy-haired star of Germany's 1974 World Cup-winning side, now the distinguished man of business, television and soccer club boardrooms — is expected to get the go-ahead to stand for chairman of Bayern Munich on Friday.

Bayern's board meet to decide on a candidate to put before the club's members at a meeting next month. After many weeks of controversy, Beckenbauer is widely tipped to move towards the job of chief executive at Germany's richest and most successful club.

Beckenbauer, who turns 50 next year but still looks as lean and fit as in his playing days, has had virtually every job in football.

He inspired soccer fans worldwide in the 1960s and 1970s with his creative interpretation of the libero role, captained West Germany to their 1974 World Cup triumph and coached his country to the title again in Italy in 1990.

It is almost inevitable that Beckenbauer should end up running the club he joined as a fresh-faced teenager in the 1960s, led to several triumphs in Europe in the 1970s and come back in an emergency to coach to the German league title in 1994.

With his impeccable jackets and suits, his diplomacy and love of golf, the Kaiser appears to have everything required of a top-class executive. Yet his final nomination seems to have come by accident.

Former Germany captain Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, like Beckenbauer a vice-president at the club, was widely expected to run against present chairman Fritz Scherer.

But to avoid a bitter battle between the two men, Beckenbauer's name was put forward by Bavarian state premier and Bayern official Edmund Stoiber, knowing that few people would dare to take on the Kaiser.

Beckenbauer has shown his versatility by turning his hand to many things since the 1990 World Cup.

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