

Sport

World Youth Championships

Netherlands drub Honduras

DOHA, Apr 17: Netherlands were declared 7-1 winners over Honduras in the World Youth Championships on Sunday after the central American team had four players sent off and lost another through injury, reports Reuter.

the third and 44th minutes and Robert Gehring in the 65th minute and Wilfred Bouma in the 76th minute. Honduras' reply came from a Luis Aseguera penalty after 48 minutes.

Japanese referee Masayoshi Okada declared Netherlands the winners in the 77th minute after Honduras were reduced to six players.

African champions Cameroon defeated Australia 3-2 in an electrifying match when Mahop Ntamag blasted home two spectacular goals in the last 25 minutes to earn three points for his team.

"I apologise to the Dutch and the people here for what happened tonight," said Honduras coach Luis Camargo.

Australia took the lead in the 10th minute when captain Mark Viduka tapped home a cross from Robert Middleby.

FIFA officials promised an inquiry and Camargo said his players would be punished by the Honduran Football association.

Cameroon levelled the score in the 51st minute after a clever move initiated by captain Simo Augustin which resulted in a goal to Mahop Ntamag whose brilliant header flew past Clint Bolton.

Alex Bailey was the first to be sent off in the 17th minute followed by Orvin Cabrera in the 45th, Hector Rodriguez in the 70th and Luis Lagos in the 73rd.

Australian captain Mark Viduka scored in the 70th minute with a diving header to put Australia back in the game 2-2.

After the Dutch had scored their seventh goal, Honduras were reduced to six men when Luis Oseguera was stretched off the field.

As tempers began to run high, Russian referee Nikolai Levinov sent off Cameroon's Con Anthios in the 82nd minute before Ntamag scored the winning goal.

Mendel Witzenhauen scored for the Dutch in the ninth, 23rd and 74th minutes. Nordin Wooter scored twice in

Earlier, Syria recovered from their opening match 6-0 passing by Brazil to beat Qatar 1-0.

UEFA Cup semifinals today

PARIS, Apr 17: Treble-chasing Juventus have three players sidelined and Borussia Dortmund must suffer three player suspensions, three ruled out by injury and two doubtful starters for Tuesday's UEFA Cup semifinal, reports AFP.

eree Marc Batta waved eight yellow cards five for Dortmund. Three of Dortmund's key players - internationals Andreas Moller, Matthias Sammer, and Karlheinz Riedle - were consequently banned for the second leg.

Keeper Angelo Peruzzi and striker Gianluca Vialli are injured, and sweeper Moreno Torricelli is suspended for Juventus.

Dortmund issued a plea to UEFA, but were told: "You can't appeal against yellow cards."

Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat and Denmark's Flemming Povlsen are already out through injury to add to problems of Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld.

Antonio Benarrivo is suspended for Parma, the 1992-93 Cup Winners' Cup champions, meaning coach Nevio Scala will have to reshuffle his defensive line.

Juventus, who beat Lazio 2-1 (3-1 on aggregate) in midweek to put them into the Italian Cup final, travel to Dortmund with the tie delicately balanced at 2-2.

Parma, with a 2-1 advantage, host Bayer Leverkusen in the night's other semifinal.

A Roberto Baggio double earned Juventus a 2-1 win against Reggiana on Saturday to move 11 points clear of second-placed Parma in the Italian championship.

Chapuisat, 25, faces surgery after tearing knee ligaments in training, just two days after scoring one goal and creating another in their 2-0 quarterfinal, second leg win over Lazio.

Parma, with a 2-1 advantage, host Bayer Leverkusen in the night's other semifinal.

Martin Kree is also out and Stefan Reuter and Ibrahim Tanko are doubtful, spelling the necessity of bringing in untried reserves.

Baggio, who was out for more than three months this season with a knee injury, said: "I have certainly had a difficult period, but it is now all behind me."

Dortmund, trying to forget their 6-1 thrashing on aggregate in the UEFA Cup final two years ago, must fear a similar crushing loss.

Dortmund, ahead of Werder Bremen by one point in the Bundesliga, will have to field almost a reserve side as their first string is decimated by suspension and injury.

In the other semifinal, Bayer Leverkusen have sacked their coach since the 2-1 loss in Germany against Parma in the first match.

Erich Ribbeck was hired as coach in place of Slav Dragoslav Stepanovic.

General manager Rainer Calmund explained: "The dif-

Deportivo stay focused

MADRID, Apr 17: Deportivo Coruna kept their championship hopes alive on Sunday with a 3-1 win at Real Sociedad while Barcelona dropped another point with a goalless draw at Real Oviedo, reports Reuter.

Mehu Kodro also missed three clear chances. But Fran's second in the 54th minute seemed to calm Deportivo nerves, and Beбето made it three in the 82nd masterfully controlling a long pass from defender Miroslav Djukic on the edge of the box before blasting home past keeper Alberto Lopez.

Captain Fran Gonzalez hit two goals and Brazilian striker Beбето wrapped it up with a superbly taken second half strike.

Champions Barcelona dropped a point with a lacklustre 0-0 draw at Real Oviedo. "It was a poor game and a

Deportivo's win moved them to 38 points, still six behind Real Madrid, who won 2-0 at Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

fair result," said Barcelona's Dutch defender Ronald Koeman. "They had more chances but they never really created any danger."

Barcelona came closest to scoring in the 39th minute when a corner taken by Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov was headed over the crossbar by Jose Bakero.

The draw means Barcelona now have 36 points, eight behind Real Madrid with nine games left.

It looks very difficult, Real Madrid just doesn't seem to lose. But we haven't lost hope, coach Arsonio Gonzalez said.

Apparently, the commission was unhappy with the title of the serial - jointly produced by CCTV and two local television stations.

Watching the game in San Sebastian was John Toshack, former Real Sociedad coach, who is due take over from Gonzalez at Deportivo next season.

While the report did not detail the nature of the commission's objection, China's sporting authorities have in the past expressed annoyance with Ma's cult status.

Deportivo dominated the game for long spells and Fran gave them a deserved lead in the 30th minute.

Sport is a major state concern in China, and while individual athletes are accorded star treatment, coaches and managers are generally expected to keep a lower profile.

But three minutes into the second period Sociedad equalised when Imanol Alguacil headed home.

However, since Ma's able of middle and long distance women runners burst onto the world athletics scene in 1993 and rewrote the record books, the coach has become an international star - partly because of his famed "magic potion" which has turtle blood as a main ingredient.

The equaliser seemed to spark the home side into life and they went close to taking the lead, twice hitting the woodwork. Bosnian striker

Ma's volatile personality and the much publicised split with his team last year amid allegations - hotly denied by Ma - that he pocketed their winnings, have kept him in the spotlight off the track.

Strong winds force to call off racing

SAN DIEGO, Apr 17: Heavy seas and strong winds caused the cancellation of America's Cup racing off San Diego Sunday, reports AP.

The serial had been approved by the Central Propaganda Department of the Ministry of Broadcasting and Television, and the Sports Commission gave its producers the green light to begin shooting in November last year.

Seas of about 7 feet (2 metres) and wind gusts over 20 knots caused race organizers to call off the two scheduled matches.

Team New Zealand was scheduled to race one Australia on the Louis Vuitton Cup challenger course. On the Citizen Cup defender course Stars and Stripes was matched against Mighty Mary.

Los Angeles Lakers centre Vlade Divac (L) and teammate Sam Bowie both go up for rebound as Roy Tarpley of the Dallas Mavericks (R) looks on during their NBA league game in Los Angeles on Apr 16. Lakers beat Dallas 125-111. - AFP/UNB photo

Los Angeles Lakers centre Vlade Divac (L) and teammate Sam Bowie both go up for rebound as Roy Tarpley of the Dallas Mavericks (R) looks on during their NBA league game in Los Angeles on Apr 16. Lakers beat Dallas 125-111. - AFP/UNB photo

Muster's 3rd in a year

BARCELONA, Apr 17: Australian Thomas Muster, the ninth seed, beat Sweden's Magnus Larsson 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 in the final of the men's ATP clay court tournament here Sunday to collect his third title of the year, reports AFP.

Muster, a specialist on clay, never gave Larsson, seeded seventh, a glimmer of hope. Since his defeat to Karel Novacek in Munich in 1990, the 27-year old Muster has never lost a final on clay, and is on an unbeaten run of 15 matches this year.

Larsson, despite his 1994 Roland Garros semifinal appearance, is an all rounder who is more comfortable on faster surfaces.

The favourites who were seeded to meet in the final, Sergi Bruguera of Spain and world number two Pete Sampras of the United States, lost into their opening games on Wednesday.

But in the second half, Burundi went on the attack and upset the rhythm of Chile who were without captain Saleh Omar and Linkman Ahi Shakiye, under suspension after being sent off in the opening match against Spain.

Burundi were finally rewarded seven minutes from the end when Blaise Butnanga lapped in a rebound after Djuma Maasoudi had struck the far post with a free-kick.

Hotel space for Atlanta Games selling fast

ATLANTA, Apr 17: With hotel space scarce in Atlanta during the Olympics, fears are arising that the few available rooms will be gobbled up by corporations willing to pay wildly inflated prices, reports AP.

The state has forbidden price gouging by hotels during the 1996 Games. But some believe the law could not be patched up. We had to react."

Leverkusen, the 1988 UEFA Cup champions warmed up with a 1-0 win against Bayer Uerdingen on Thursday thanks to a Rudi Voeller penalty.

The hotel operators are angrily asking why their business was singled out in the anti price gouging law. Other service industries, such as private home rentals and restaurants, have no limits on what they can charge when two million Olympics-happy tourists converge on the city next year, they say.

You've got a real rat's nest going on with this thing," said Tom Hastings, who runs a Tampa, Florida-based tour service that has secured thousands of rooms to sell as part of travel packages.

The issue arose when some international travel agents attending a trade show in Atlanta complained they were being asked to pay exorbitant prices for hotel rooms during the Olympics. The rates - for example, \$350 per night for a room that usually costs \$79 - were quoted by real estate companies and tour operators, not the hotels themselves, the agents said.

No formal written complaints have been filed, though, according to state authorities.

Meanwhile, some hotel operators said they were being offered sky-high rates by corporations seeking to lock up large blocks of rooms.

Following Italian clubs' financial problems, many German stars have returned home. Italian presidents now look to cheaper markets, such as Portugal, for foreign replacements.

Eintracht Frankfurt Vice-president Bernd Holzbein, who won the World Cup as a player in 1974, believes a wind of change is in the air. "The Bundesliga is beginning to compete on an equal basis with the Serie A," he said.

The winner of the Leverkusen-Parma tie hosts the first leg of the final on May 3, with the return on May 17.

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CCTV drops Ma's serial

SHANGHAI, Apr 17: China Central Television (CCTV) has dropped an eight part serial on athletics coach Ma Junren and his record-breaking women runners after failing to obtain clearance from censors, a newspaper reported Monday, reports AFP.

Ma's family army was scheduled to run April 13, but the serial was dropped two days before it was to go on air because of objections from the State Sports Commission. The Wen Hui Daily reported.

Apparently, the commission was unhappy with the title of the serial - jointly produced by CCTV and two local television stations.

While the report did not detail the nature of the commission's objection, China's sporting authorities have in the past expressed annoyance with Ma's cult status.

Sport is a major state concern in China, and while individual athletes are accorded star treatment, coaches and managers are generally expected to keep a lower profile.

However, since Ma's able of middle and long distance women runners burst onto the world athletics scene in 1993 and rewrote the record books, the coach has become an international star - partly because of his famed "magic potion" which has turtle blood as a main ingredient.

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Graf gains Houston title

HOUSTON, Texas, Apr 17: World number one Steffi Graf of Germany was in a league of her own on Sunday when she routed Asa Carlsson of Sweden 6-1, 6-1 in the final of the 430,000 dollar Houston women's tennis championships, reports Reuter.

The top-seeded Graf, who surrendered just 12 games against four opponents here, claimed her fourth title of the year, and her first on clay, while running her 1995 record to 18-0.

"I'm pretty happy with the way things are going," said Graf after collecting the 79,000 winner's cheque for her 68-minute romp.

"I've had 10 days to get ready for the clay court, which is plenty. But you never know if you've been playing indoors. The clay court season is just during April and May so you really haven't played on clay in 10 months. So to be able to play and win the first tournament so clearly just feel great."

The 25-year-old German was in complete control, wielding her signature forehand and array of deft drop shots to keep the Swede off-balance.

Would she have preferred a stiffer test from the over-eager baseliner?

"I think she played just too good for me," said Carlsson. "I tried to play my best but she just came up with another shot when I played a good shot. I just played good on two or three points every game, but she just played good on every point the whole match."

Carlsson beat Germany's Meike Babel in the semifinals but didn't go in with a positive attitude.

"I didn't think I had a chance but I really wanted to play well and make a fight with this match," said the Swede, who earned \$5,000. "I tried my best and that's all that I can do."

Graf's road to her 90th career title was smoothed when Mary Pierce, Mary Joe Fernandez and Magdalena Maleeva were forced out of the tournament for a variety of reasons.

Graf, who will take a four-week break and then play in Berlin, was asked if she would be ready for the clay courts of the French Open in late May.

"Absolutely," she replied. "If things go the way they've been going, if I can get some time off from tennis, which will help, and be able to practice a little bit more on the red clay before Paris, absolutely."



STEFFI GRAF

clay court game. Carlsson was appearing in her second career final, but the 19-year-old, 96th ranked Swede ran into a blonde buzz-

Gilbert known for "winning ugly"

TOKYO, Apr 17: Brad Gilbert was known for "winning ugly," outsmarting tennis players who had never-looking strokes.

Now he's helping Andre Agassi to win pretty - and more often, reports AP.

Gilbert, 33, who rose as high as No 4 in the world rankings, in 1990, has been coaching Agassi for the last 13 months.

During that time, Agassi's ranking has climbed from No 32 to No 1, a position he gained on Monday, dethroning fellow American Pete Sampras who spent 82 weeks in a row on top.

"It has been a good run," Gilbert said Saturday, after Agassi had beaten Wayne Ferreira in the semifinals of the Japan Open, bringing his match record this year to 30-2.

Back in 1993, he said, the idea of coaching "intrigued me. I felt Andre wasn't doing as well as he could. I told him I thought I could really help him. We started the next day."

Agassi has credited his rise to commitment, hard work and Gilbert's direction.

He said Saturday that Gilbert has been good for him because "he's a very simple person. I tend to be a very complicated person. I tend to stress over a lot of things."

Gilbert said: "I'm real good at strategy. He's real good at applying it."

Before he started coaching, Gilbert co-authored a book called "winning ugly," aimed at teaching club players how to outthink opponents and improve 15 to 20 per cent without improving their strokes.

Agassi, on the other hand, is a man with talent. "He wins pretty," Gilbert said, but added: "He's learning to win when he isn't playing well. You have to learn to win when you've got only 62 per cent of your goods, to break down other guys' strengths."

And, he said, Agassi still thinks he can improve 20 or 30 per cent. "He thinks he can improve his serve, forehand, speed and volleys."

Among the motivations: Sampras will be working on improving too.

Agassi has said the keen rivalry with Sampras adds spice to the No 1 ranking. The two have met in three finals this year, and Agassi has won two, greatly contributing to the ratings points he needed to capture the top spot.

Their next possible meeting will come at the end of May, in the French Open, the only Grand Slam event each of them hasn't won.

Gilbert hasn't retired from playing but has sharply cut down his tournament schedule. As he devoted himself more to coaching, his ranking fell to 77th at the end of last year.

But his "ugly" strokes get plenty of work in practice sessions with Agassi.

Gilbert said, however, it offered to coach somebody else after Agassi.

He said he would like to get into television or become a radio talk show host, allowing him to spend more time with his wife and two children.

He also is considering a new book at some point. For "winning ugly," he said, co-author Steve Jamison approached him with the idea, and Gilbert spent some time watching club players.

"He had never written anything before," Gilbert added. Gilbert set out his tennis advice verbally, and Jamison organized and wrote it.

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Swiss Mauro Gianetti kisses the winner's cup at the end of the Liege-Bastogne-Liege cycling race in Belgium on Sunday. Gianetti won in 6 hours, 38 minutes and 25 seconds, beating Italians Gianni Buga and Michele Bartoli. - AFP/UNB photo

Davis Cup Saudi Arabia on top of Group B

DUBAI, Apr 17: Saudi Arabia and Bahrain were promoted Sunday in the Davis Cup after beating Pacific Oceania and Singapore on the final day of the Asia-Oceania Zone Group III tournament, reports AP.

The Saudis, who had shocked group favourites Bangladesh on the penultimate day, finished at the top of the 6-team Group B standing with 5 points.

They sent in their No 2 player Bader Mohammed for the first singles against Pacific Oceania's Lency Tenal. Mohammed dropped the opening set but came back strongly in the final two sets to pull the first singles their way.

Othman al-Anazi was stretched by Pacific Oceania's Motuliki Kailahi before prevailing in the tie-breaker to claim the opening set and went full steam ahead to beat the error-prone Kailahi in the second set to win the singles and draw a cheer from the Saudi crowd.

In a match to decide the 7-team Group A winner, Singapore dropped the opening singles when Bahrain's Essam Abdul-Aal beat Adrian Lam 6-7 (4-7), 6-1, 7-5. However, Chee Yen Chen pulled back the second singles Singapore's way when he outfoxed Abdul-Latif Ahmed 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 to take the Singaporeans in the deciding doubles.

The Bahrain pair of Essam Abdul-Aal Nader Jaafar were too good for Sherman Lim and 'Adrian' Lam as the Gulf nation won 6-4, 6-4.

Singapore and Bahrain were equal on five points before going into the final day.

Thirteen teams participated in the zonal championships, which began on April 10.

Pippig eyes Ingrid's mark

LONDON, Apr 17: German Uta Pippig, who defends the Boston Marathon title on Monday, has set her sights on Ingrid Kristiansen's 10-year-old world mark of two hours 21 minutes six seconds, reports Reuter.

Ever since she became the first German to win the prestigious New York event with her historic 1993 victory, Pippig's sights have been set on the world best.

Three years ago she was a full five minutes outside Kristiansen's time, but for Pippig the writing was already on the wall.

"After this victory my aim is the world record. It is now more of a goal than just a dream," she said.

Her words were taken at the time with a large pinch of salt, but six months later in Boston she came just 39 tantalising seconds away from beating the Norwegian mark.

Now, on the eve of the 99th Boston Marathon she believes she may have that record finally within her sights.

"All the signs are there. This year in Kyoto I was faster than last year."

The Kyoto half-marathon in Japan is Pippig's benchmark. Run on March 19 she battled against a strong headwind in the latter stages to produce the third fastest time ever for the distance of 1:07:58.

Sceptics say a following wind over Boston's undulating course accounted for Pippig's time last year.

"Yes, but don't forget, last year I was also sick before Boston," Pippig responds.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across, Down, and Cryptiquip. Includes a solution time of 22 mins and a grid of letters.

Cryptiquip puzzle grid with a grid of letters and a clue: "Y equals M".