

Austrians jolt Charlton



DUBLIN, June 12: Ireland's hopes of reaching next year's European Championship finals in England took a severe knock on Sunday when they went down 3-1 at home to Austria in their Group Six qualifying match at Lansdowne Road, report agencies.

Three goals in a nine-minute spell in the second half from Tony Polster (69th and 78th) and Andreas Ogris (72nd) gave the Austrians a surprisingly easy victory which moves them up to third place two points behind Ireland with a game in hand. With the three points dropped on Sunday, added to the two presented to Liechtenstein in a scoreless draw nine days ago, it leaves Jack Charlton's side needing to win all of their remaining group matches if they are to make it to England.

Ireland looked on their way to a much needed home win when Ray Houghton tapped into an empty net in the 65th minute after substitute striker Tony Cascarino had created the opening.

But the Irish celebrations proved premature when four minutes later Polster notched his ninth goal of the qualifying rounds, curling a 30-metre free-kick around the wall and low into the bottom right-hand corner.

In the 72nd minute Austria went ahead when defender Johann Kogler played a through ball behind the home defence for substitute Andreas Ogris to run on to and slot the ball home wide of goalkeeper Alan Kelly.

Irish midfielder Ronnie Whelan was booked in the aftermath of the goal for protesting that defender Denis Irwin had been fouled coming out of defence, leaving Kogler with plenty of time to put Ogris clear up the right side.

Ireland's agony was complete in the 78th minute when Polster notched his second of the game, rising high above defender Gary Kelly to head home a free-kick from midfielder Christian Prosenik into the roof of the Ireland net.

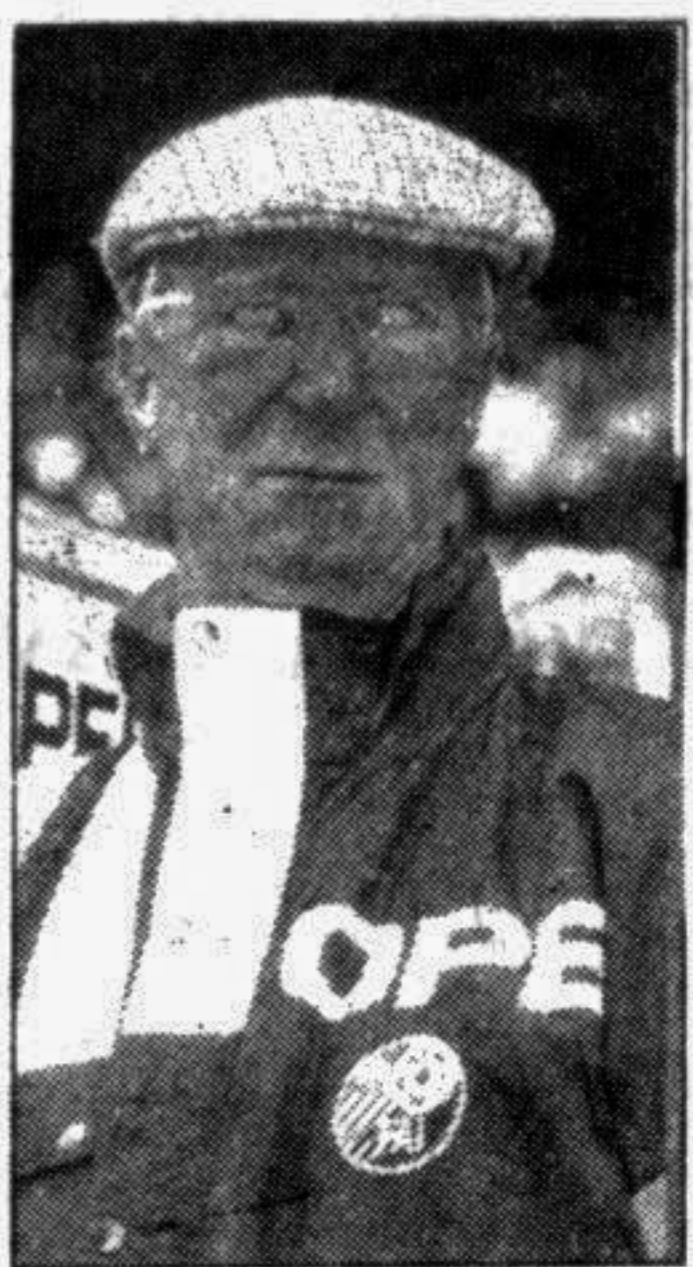
For the first time since Charlton took over as manager

in 1986, Ireland were booted off the field by their own supporters at the final whistle while the small contingent of Austrian supporters were sent home signing.

Austrian coach Herbert Prohastka was clearly delighted with his team's performance.

"The key to this result was equalising so soon after they (Ireland) had scored. If we win our next game away in Latvia in August, we will be in a strong position to qualify," he said.

Ireland manager Jack



JACK CHARLTON

Charlton was less content. "I had a feeling something like this might happen," he said.

"But it's still in our hands. There is still a long way to go in this European Championship campaign."

Charlton was also unhappy with the performance of the German referee Markus Merk.

"The first goal resulted from a free-kick that wasn't. For the second goal, the referee decided to give us a free-kick but then he hanged his mind and Austria scored. It just was not our day," he said.

In Helsinki, Finland rallied from a goal down to defeat Greece 2-1 moving the Finns into first place in Group Eight in qualifying for the European Championship.

Ari Hjelm, Finland's all-time

leading scorer, netted his 20th for the national team when he headed in the game-winner off a cross from midfielder Petri Helin nine minutes into the second half.

The Greeks had taken the lead on Demis Nikolaidis' goal in the sixth minute, Jari Litmanen, who helped lead Dutch team Ajax to this year's Champions' Cup title, equalised with a penalty in first-half injury time.

The victory moved Finland, seeking to qualify for the finals for the first time, atop the group with 15 points in seven games. Russia have 14 points in six games, Scotland 14 points in seven games and Greece 12 in six.

In Kiev, a superb first half goal by Dynamo Kiev midfielder Yuri Kalitvintsev helped Ukraine to a shock 1-0 win over Croatia in their European Championship Group Four qualifying match.

Kalitvintsev's decider came in the 13th minute when his thundering 25-metre shot flashed into the top left-hand corner of Croatian goalkeeper Toni Gabric's net.

Croatia played out the final hour with 10 men after Gabric was shown the red card for bringing down Ukrainian striker Trimerlan Guseinov outside the area in the 28th minute.

The defeat was Croatia's first of the competition but they still top the group with 16 points from seven games, three points ahead of Italy who have a game in hand. Ukraine remain in fourth place.

At Reykjavik, Iceland badly denied Hungary's hopes of qualifying for next year's European Championship with a 2-1 victory in their Group Three qualifier.

Two goals in five minutes in the second half gave the Icelanders their first win in the qualifying competition and came on the back of a creditable 1-1 draw against last year's World Cup semifinalists Sweden 11 days previously.

Iceland, who still top up the group three standings despite their victory, fell behind during the run of play when Hungarian winger Istvan Vincze rifled home a 16th minute shot.

Hosts annex Indo-Pan Am hockey title

CHANDIGARH, June 12: A belligerent display helped India beat Argentina 3-2 in the Indo-Pan American field hockey game to win the four-nation Gold Cup tournament in this northern city Monday, reports AP.

India topped the pool with five points, while Canada were the runners-up, with three points.

Needing only a draw to win the cup, India launched an all-out attack from the beginning. Hasrat Quereshi, Rahul Singh and Baljeet Singh Sr scored one goal each. Manuel Juan Garcia and Maximiliano Manadeo scored one goal each for Argentina.

The Indian team played to a plan and successfully blocked the hit-and-run tactics of the visitors, whose forward line worked in clockwork precision. Both teams were one each at half time.

Argentina got 10 penalty corners, but managed to convert only one. "India outplayed us. They performed better and deserved the cup," Argentina coach Victor Sanz told the Associated Press.

Argentina and the United States each shared two points.

Afsar tennis results

Rumana Hayat clinched the girls' singles title (14-year age group) in the Afsar Group tennis tournament beating Sifat Nusrat Baishakhi 6-4, 6-1 in the final at the Ramna National Complex yesterday, reports UNB.

In the boys' singles (10-year age group), Ryan Kamal emerged champion defeating Fahim Haider 8-2 while Ranjan Ram won the boys' singles (8-year age group) title outplaying S. Jahan Tora 21-3 in the finals.

Meanwhile, Hira Lal, Shibu Lal and Shamim Ahsan Rony moved into the semifinals of the men's singles while Sathi Sarkar, Mrs Cookson, Mithun and Urmil qualified for the women's singles.

In the men's singles quarter-finals, Hiralal beat Awal 6-1, 6-1, Shibu Lal defeated To-fazzal 6-4, 6-3 and Rony eliminated Omar 6-3, 6-3.

In the women's singles quarter-finals, Sathi outplayed Farhana Haq 6-0, 6-0, Mrs Cookson beat Shaoni 6-3, 6-1, Mithun defeated EU 6-0, 6-4 and Urmil overcame Rina 6-4, 6-1.

Earlier on Sunday, Shaifque and Salahuddin reached the boys' singles (16-year age group) final beating Rabat and Mohsin respectively; Momi and Niranjana booked the final berth of the boys' singles (14-year age group) eliminating Rahat and Mohsin respectively.

Morrison knocks Ruddock down

KANSAS CITY, Missouri, June 12: Tommy Morrison stopped Donovan "Razor" Ruddock with five seconds remaining in the sixth round to capture the International Boxing Council's vacant heavyweight title and resurrect his flagging career, reports AP.

Morrison (45-2-1) appeared tired in the fourth round, but came back and knocked down Ruddock with a powerful left hook early in the sixth before finishing him off with a right-left combination.

Ruddock, fighting just his second bout in two years, did not go down, but the fight was stopped.

The first left hook toppled Ruddock, and referee Ron Lipton knew the Canadian fighter was in trouble.

"His eyes went back into his head," Lipton said. "His eyes weren't even. He wanted to continue, but he was hurt."

Ruddock (28-5-1) rocked Morrison with a couple of lefts earlier in the round, but Morrison, his left eye and cheek reddened, continued his attack.

Ruddock knocked Morrison down midway through the first round, and appeared to have the Kansas City fighter on the run several times. But Morrison, who has had a series of lackluster fights since he won the WBO championship from George Foreman in 1993 and lost it one fight later, wouldn't stay down.

Ruddock connected with several lefts and Morrison, whose conditioning has always been a problem, appeared to be weakening. He got caught in the corner where Ruddock's longer reach was an advantage, but escaped and caught Ruddock in the middle of the ring to land several punches at the end of the round.

The second and third rounds belonged to Morrison. He connected with a left hook and a left uppercut, and then drove Ruddock into the ropes with a combination.

Ruddock had Morrison on the run again in the fifth, but again Morrison recovered.



Austrian Thomas Muster kisses the French Open trophy after defeating American Michael Chang in the men's singles final at Roland Garros on Sunday. Muster won 7-5, 6-2, 6-4.

— AFP/UNB photo

Where experience counts



PARIS, June 12: The days of teenage triumphs are beginning to look dated with victory going to experienced campaigners Thomas Muster and Steffi Graf at the French Open, reports Reuter.

There was perhaps an ironic significance in their respective wins in the men's and women's finals over Michael Chang and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, both champions at Roland Garros in 1989 when they were 17-year-old wonderkids.

Muster, at 27, and the 25-year-old Graf are hardly geriatrics but in tennis terms they are a generation apart from the younger breed of player, who found the going strangely tough this year.

The Paris tournament has been such a haven for the youngsters in recent years, tennis players have begun to look way past their prime by the time they reach 23 or 24.

This year, none of the finalists was younger than 23 and not a single teenager made it into the semifinals.

The long-awaited triumph of Muster, Austria's first Grand

Slam champion, and the return to her best of German Graf, who also became women's world number one again, illustrated the changing nature of the clay court game.

Muster is no Bjorn Borg winner of a record six French Open titles, but he is the perfect exponent of the modern slow surface game.

Peak physical fitness, power and strength give him the ability to keep up a deluge of hard shots which put enormous pressure on an opponent and force him to crack. In Paris, he extended an amazing run of success on clay to six tournaments titles and 35 consecutive match wins.

It's a far cry from Borg's days of heavy top spin though it's not necessarily more spectacular.

Trance's Henri Leconte losing finalist at Roland Garros in 1988, said: "What Muster has done is absolutely fabulous. To win six clay court tournaments in a row is historic."

"But he deserves it. He's really the player of the moment. He's worked so hard for it."

"I can't really say I like the way he plays tennis but I take my hat off to his success in

sporting terms."

Despite his win, Muster is unlikely to capture any of the other three Grand Slam titles played on other surfaces as he is purely a clay specialist.

All but one of his 29 career titles have been won on his favoured surface and he is so sure of his inability to compete with the faster demands of grass that he will not even compete at the next Grand Slam event in Wimbledon, where he has never won a match.

Graf, who had not won a Grand Slam tournament for more than a year and who had not expected her victory after being plagued by a back injury for months, also triumphed thanks to a more aggressive approach than her main rivals.

It was her 16th Grand Slam singles title, taking her to within two of the open era record set by Americans Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova.

Graf's career has been erratic since the stabbing of Seles at a Hamburg tournament two years ago but the German may be galvanised by the thought that her arch-rival looks like making a return to tennis at last this year.

Muster to be honoured

VIENNA, June 12: Thomas Muster, who on Sunday became the first Austrian to win a Grand Slam tennis tournament, will be honoured by having his feet and hands imprinted in cement on a Vienna pavement called "street of the victors".

Muster will join former Austrian skiing star Franz Klammer, and Formula One drivers Niki Lauda and Gerhard Berger among others to have had their imprints on the pavement, reports Reuter.

Arantxa suffers double blow

PARIS, June 12: Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, beaten by Steffi Graf in the singles final on Saturday, came back into the Centre Court on Sunday and suffered another defeat, reports AFP.

Top-seeded with Jana Novotna in the women's doubles she was beaten by second seeds and defending champions Gigi Fernandez of the United States and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus in three sets.

Fernandez and Zvereva, who also won in 1992 and 1993, scored a 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 7-5 victory.

Duran keeps Martinez at bay

KANSAS CITY, Missouri, June 12: Roberto Duran knocked out Roni Martinez with a flurry of punches in the seventh round Saturday night to win the IBC super middleweight title, reports AP.

Martinez, losing for the first time in 18 fights, had gone to his knees seconds before going down in a vicious combination from the charging Duran, who improved to 95-12 with the 66th knockout of his career.

Martinez's fall to his knees was officially ruled a slip and not a knockdown, but he appeared staggered as he came out of the corner. Duran, still punching hard at age 44, was on him immediately.

Duran, the former middleweight champion, kept Martinez at bay through the fight with a strong left jab.

He drove Martinez into the corner with the jab, and then landed a strong combination that seemed to stun Martinez in the second round.

Duran rocked Martinez with a hard left to the side of the head, and then landed another combination in the fourth round.

Duran was cautioned once for hitting below the belt, and Martinez thought there were other times.

A time out was mysteriously called in the fourth round when Martinez walked to his corner. The only apparent reason was to change his mouth-piece.

Duran was coming off two losses to Vinny Pazienza. The first was a controversial decision on June 25. Pazienza won a more convincing decision in a re-match in January. Duran had won six in a row until then since starting his latest comeback in 1992.

US Cup '95 kicks off Americans amerce Nigeria



FOXBORO, Massachusetts, June 12: The United States twice rallied from a goal down to upset African champions Nigeria 3-2 on Sunday, getting the game-winner from substitute Cobi Jones in the 68th minute, reports AP.

The victory by the Americans came after they played the last six minutes with only 10 men, the result of forward Frank Klopas' ejection for receiving his second yellow card.

The game was the opener in the four-nation exhibition tournament US Cup '95, a round-robin event that also includes Mexico and Colombia.

The Americans started seven of their World Cup regulars, but twice had to rally when Nigeria, playing with five of their World Cup regulars, scored first-half goals on US defensive lapses.

"On the first goal we came back quick and our second goal just before halftime gave us a little confidence going into the second half," said defender and US captain, Marcelo Balboa, who scored his 11th goal in his 100th full international — the first American to reach the plateau.

"When we came out in the second half, we definitely had a little wind behind us."

Jones' goal came after Ernie Stewart got a ball on the right side, beat his defender along the end line and laid it back across the goal box. Jones ran onto it and blasted from

the 6-yard line into the far corner past keeper Peter Rulal.

After Jones, who replaced Roy Wegerle at the start of the second half, gave the United States the lead, Nigeria pressed for the equaliser. Chukw Ndukwue and Jay-Jay Okocha got consecutive shots in the 73rd minute, both of which were either saved off the line or blocked by defender Alexi Lalas.

Lalas was playing his second game in less than 24 hours, having just arrived from Italy. He played in an Italian First Division relegation playoff match for Padova on Saturday, and immediately flew to the United States for the game against Nigeria.

After Padova beat Genoa to remain in the First Division, Lalas arrived a half hour before kickoff and came on as a substitute in the 46th minute.

"When I first got out there I felt kind of dazed," Lalas said. "I just hoped nothing bad would happen."

Klopas was ejected after arguing with Canadian referee John Jerome. He earned his first yellow card for kicking a ball into the stands.

The Americans had the majority of possession and chances throughout the game, particularly in the first half. But with the full team together for the first time since the World Cup, they did not appear sharp.

Nigeria appeared content to counterattack, a tactic which resulted in their two goals.

Shaibu Amodu, who coached Nigeria with technical director Carlos Torres on the bench beside him, blamed the loss on hasty preparations and the absence of many of his top stars, including Rashidi Yekini, George Finidi, and Daniel Amokachi.

Torres said Amokachi was getting married, Yekini was injured, and others had asked not to be included following the European season.

"The physical preparation of our team is far below expectations," Amodu said. "We have most of our players in Europe and the logistics is difficult."

"We are a much more experienced team than the one you saw today."

Okocha gave Nigeria the lead in only the ninth minute. Bawa, Abdullahi's first shot from the right corner of the penalty area hit American defender Paul Caligiuri in the head and rolled across the top of the area.

Okocha ran onto the ball and blasted a 20-metre shot past a helpless Brad Friedel.

But the Americans struck back two minutes after with midfielder John Harkes scoring on a blast of his own from 30 metres.

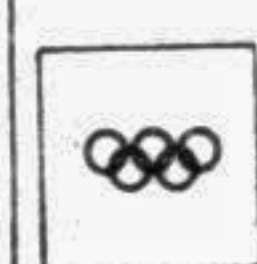
Another defensive miscue gave Nigeria their second goal in the 20th minute. Godwin Okpara tapped a ball through the penalty area where US defender Mike Burns stuck his foot out to stop the ball, only to see Taiwo Wasiu take a step forward and score easily from seven metres.



European champion Fanni Khli (R) from the Netherlands starts an attack against the Intercontinental Cup holder Australian Stefani Kertis (L), during their fight at the women's World kickboxing championships in Moscow on June 10. Fanni Khli knocked out Kertis in five rounds.

— AFP/UNB photo

IOC yet to pick 2002 host



BUDAPEST, Hungary, June 12: The International Olympic Committee is meeting to select the host

city of the 2002 Winter Games, prolong Juan Antonio Samaranch's presidential mandate and welcome new members into the club.

The centrepiece of the week-long gathering starting Monday in the Hungarian capital is Friday's vote to determine the city that will stage the first Winter Games of the next century, reports AP.

Salt Lake City is considered the favourite over three rivals: Ostersund, Sweden; Quebec, and Sion, Switzerland.

Four years ago, the Utah capital lost by four votes to Nagano, Japan, in the race for the 1998 Games. Salt Lake City has been the front-runner throughout this campaign as it seeks to bring the Winter Olympics to the United States for the first time since Lake Placid, New York, in 1980.

Salt Lake City, which received top marks in an IOC evaluation report last year, stresses that it has fulfilled its promises from the last bid and virtually completed all the necessary facilities.

"We're optimistic that everybody's out to beat us," said Dave Johnson, vice president of the Salt Lake bid committee. "I don't expect there are going to be any last-minute surprises. But we don't have a sense of overconfidence. We know how difficult it is to lose. We made it a commitment not to take anything for granted. We will work right up to the end."

The 2002 vote is not the only decision that will influence the future of the Olympic movement.

The session is expected to change the IOC's age-limit rules to clear the way for Samaranch to win re-election to another four-year term in 1997.

Samaranch, IOC president since 1980, will be 77 in 1997. Under current rules, he will be over the age limit of 75 and ineligible to run again.

However, Samaranch has apparently forged a consensus among IOC members for the rule to be changed: Either by eliminating the age limit altogether, raising it to 78 or waiving it for a president in office.

While Samaranch hasn't announced that he definitely will run in 1997, he would now have the option to do so. Indications are that, if healthy, he will seek another four-year mandate. If so, no one is likely

to run against him.

"He has not said he is going to run again, but this way he can do things he needs to do the next two years without feeling he's a lame duck," said Anita DeFrantz of the US member on the IOC executive board. "He may simply believe that he has a few more things to accomplish as president."

Less enthusiastic about the move is Dick Pound, an executive board member from Canada who was considered a favourite to succeed Samaranch in 1997.

"I think we would all be complete laughing stocks if we removed the age limit," he said. "We would be laughing stocks if we all moved up to 78 so Samaranch can run again. That leaves you with the age limit that doesn't apply to the president in office. The result, as far as he is concerned, is the same."

In another move to consolidate his power, Samaranch is expected to nominate up to 10 international federation presidents as IOC members.

Samaranch wants to re-structure the makeup of the IOC by giving membership to

Soccer fans die

ROME, June 12: Three Genoa fans died after suffering heart attacks during a relegation play-off that condemned their team to Italy's Serie B. Italian newspapers reported on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Mirko Pilotti, 50, and Paolo Domenico Riso, who was 42, died after being taken ill at the Artemio Franchi stadium in Florence during the match against Padova on Saturday.

Giuseppe Tolmino, 79, collapsed and died while watching the game on television at home in the northwestern port city.

US knock Canada out

CHANDIGARH, India, June 12: The United States Sunday defeated Canada 1-0 in the four-nation Indo-Pan American gold field hockey tournament in this northern Indian city, reports AP.

The defeat put Canada out of the race for the championship. India and Argentina meet on Monday for the title.

Both USA and Canada had not scored at half-time.

The only goal of match came from Ben Marquin who neatly converted a penalty corner into a winner in the 57th minute.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Local Government Rural Development & Co-operatives Local Government Division

JOB OPPORTUNITY

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF DHAKA WASA

Applications are invited from suitable candidates for the post of Managing Director, Dhaka WASA. Reporting to a Board of Directors, the incumbent will be responsible for the day to day operations of the agency and for the management of its investment programme. He will be expected to operationalize and enforce appropriate public utility commercial practices to improve labour productivity and efficiency of Dhaka WASA. He will be involved in the reorganization of Dhaka WASA and in the selection of senior officers, including his principal deputies. As part of the restructuring programme the Managing Director will be able to award incentives for performance improvements of Dhaka WASA officials, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Candidates must either have technical knowledge and experience in the water supply and sanitation sector or a background in financial/general management at a very senior level. Preference will be given to those candidates having experience in managing medium to large organizations or a public utility and who have held positions involving policy formulation and implementation. Only candidates with considerable managerial experience and ability should apply. Candidates who applied before need not apply again. The preferred age of the candidates is between 45 to 55 years (relaxable under special circumstances).

Salary and benefits for the position will be attractive, commensurate with the responsibilities of the position and will be negotiable.

Candidates who consider themselves eligible for this position should apply to the undersigned by July 25, 1995 with a detailed C.V. for a copy of the detailed job description. The detailed job description will only be supplied to a short list of candidates who submit CVs which appear to fulfil the criteria for selection. The closing date for final application from the initial short list will be announced later.

Sayed Alamgir Farouk Choudhury

Secretary Local Government Division Room # 604, Building # 7 Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

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