

Sport

World U-17 soccer
It's a Brazil,
Ghana showdown

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, Aug 18: Brazil hammered arch-rivals Argentina 3-0 on Thursday to reach the final of the world under-17 soccer championship where they will face Ghana, who beat surprise team Oman in the other semifinal, reports Reuter.

Ghana's 3-1 win ended a heroic run by the underdogs from Oman, who had previously eliminated Nigeria and held Brazil to a draw in a first round group match.

Brazil scored all their goals in the last 20 minutes after Argentina's top player Cesar La Paglia had been sent off for a second bookable offence in the 65th minute.

The game hinged on the dismissal as Argentina had outclassed their South American neighbours for much of the first half and the early part of the second but capitulated after La Paglia's departure.

Rodrigo opened the scoring for Brazil in the 73rd minute with an individual goal, while Marcelo Rocha and Fabio Do Nascimento both scored in the last three minutes as the Argentine defence capitulated.

In the other semifinal, played in Portoviejo, Ghana did most of the first-half attacking and opened the scoring seven minutes before halftime when Joseph Ansah scored with a powerful long-range effort.

Kamara Dini increased Ghana's lead in the 54th minute but 11 minutes later Oman pulled one goal back when Mohammed Al Kathiri scored direct from a corner.

But Ghana always looked more powerful and Abu Idrisu restored their two-goal advantage in the 72nd minute, scoring from close range.

Man United
bookies' best bet

LONDON, Aug 18: Manchester United, runners-up in both the league and the FA Cup competitions last season after winning both the year before, go into Saturday's opening day the 3-1 championship favourites with bookmakers Ladbrokes, reports AP.

The Reds were listed level with league champions Blackburn at 3-1 in midweek but Ladbrokes now rate Rovers a 7-2 shot with Newcastle at 4-1, Liverpool 9-2 and Arsenal 6-1.

Ladbrokes said that Arsenal, Newcastle and FA Cup holders Everton have attracted big bets in the pre-season period. Arsenal's odds have come down from 14-1, Newcastle's from 7-1 and Everton's from 33-1 to 20-1.

If we translated the number of bets we have taken into a league table (standings), Arsenal will be champions come May," Ladbrokes spokesman Paul Austin said.

West Ham and promoted Bolton are the 250-1 outsiders to win the league title.

Dennis Bergkamp's 7.5 million-pound (12 million dollars) transfer from Inter Milan to Arsenal has not made him favourite to top the goalscorers' list at the end of the season. The Dutch striker is a 12-1 shot and has seven players above him.

Blackburn's England international striker Alan Shearer, who scored 34 league goals last season, nine more than anyone else, is hot favourite to be top scorer again at odds of 7-2.

Then come Manchester United's Andy Cole, 5-1, Newcastle's Les Ferdinand, 6-1, Liverpool's Stan Collymore, 7-1, Leeds' Tony Yeboah and Arsenal's Ian Wright, 8-1 and Liverpool's Robbie Fowler, 10-1.

Kempes plans to play in Chile

SANTIAGO, Aug 18: Argentine forward Mario Alberto Kempes, 39, plans a return to professional soccer with Chilean Second Division side Fernandez Vial, reports Reuter.

"We feel this is going to be an important contribution to Chilean football. He's not just any player, he's Kempes," a club official said on Thursday.

Kempes, who has been running a soccer school since retiring two years ago, played in Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning side.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Lifebuoy Premier Division football league:

Abahani vs Rahmatganj MFS (6.30 Dhaka Stadium)

Lifebuoy First Division football league:

Bangladesh Boys vs Police SC (4.30 Dhaka Stadium)

Mohsin Cup Second Division basketball league:

Bakshibazar vs Rising Force (4.00)

Flame Boys Club vs Young Angels (5.15 Dhanmondi Gymnasium)



Argentina's star performer Cesar La Plagia (No 10) tries to weave past a host of Brazilian players during the semifinal of the World under-17 soccer championship in Guayaquil, Ecuador on August 17. Brazil blanked Argentina 3-0. — AFP/UNB photo

European Nations' Cup

England stun Olympic champs



DUBLIN, Aug 18: Germany, the Olympic champions and winners of the Atlanta tournament last week, were beaten 3-2 by England as they started their defence of their European Nations' Cup crown on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

It was England's first success over the Germans in seven matches and was even more surprising as England were thought to be out of form after twice conceding five goals to the Netherlands just over a week ago.

The Germans had far more of the play overall and threatened to over-run England in the early play. They took the lead after only seven minutes, left winger Andreas Becker smacking a reverse

stick centre which right-winger Seven Meinhardt went full length to reflect into goal.

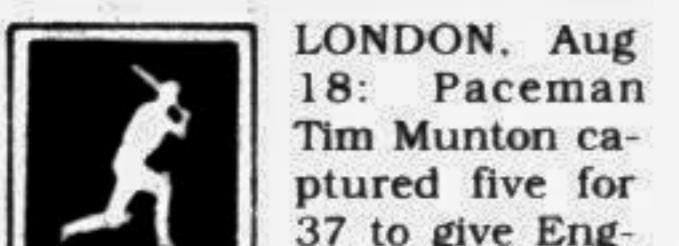
England began to get their game together midway through the first half and two goals by Clauim Giles, their penalty corner specialist, gave them a 2-1 lead on the interval.

Giles has been chosen by England to come onto the field just to shoot at corners and beat the German keeper with two flicks.

The lead was short-lived. Substitute Oliver Domke, brought on by Germany at the start of the second half, broke down the left to equalise after just three minutes.

The other goals were scored by Polish captain, Slawomir Lukaszewski and Swiss captain Toni Haberthuer. Poland are due to play England in their second match on Friday when Germany meet Belarus and Ireland, first day winners over Belarus, play Switzerland.

Munton mauls Northants



LONDON, Aug 18: Paceman Tim Munton captured five for 37 to give English county champions Warwickshire a flying start to their bid to close the gap on leaders Northamptonshire on Thursday.

Munton and South African fast bowler Allan Donald, who took two key early wickets, dismissed Nottinghamshire for 166 on the first day of their four-day game at Trent Bridge.

Warwickshire, spurred by an unbeaten 62 from Wasim Khan, had reached 139 for two at the close.

The third-placed champions want to cut a 21-point deficit on Northants, who have played one game more and are not involved in the current round of fixtures.

Donald plunged Notts into trouble by dispatching openers Paul Pollard and Tim Robison cheaply and Munton, how had a spell of four for 16 in 11 overs, pressed home the early advantage.

Notts slumped to 44 for four before New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns, who lashed eight fours and a six in his 52, led a revival by adding

84 for the fifth wicket with Paul Johnson.

However, Munton dismissed both batsmen in the space of six deliveries and the rest of the innings soon folded.

Three cheers for IAAF

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Aug 18: All 314 samples tested for drugs at the World Championships in Gothenburg were negative, the International Amateur Athletic Federation announced Friday, reports Reuter.

Munton and South African fast bowler Allan Donald, who took two key early wickets, dismissed Nottinghamshire for 166 on the first day of their four-day game at Trent Bridge.

Warwickshire, spurred by an unbeaten 62 from Wasim Khan, had reached 139 for two at the close.

The third-placed champions want to cut a 21-point deficit on Northants, who have played one game more and are not involved in the current round of fixtures.

Donald plunged Notts into trouble by dispatching openers Paul Pollard and Tim Robison cheaply and Munton, how had a spell of four for 16 in 11 overs, pressed home the early advantage.

Notts slumped to 44 for four before New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns, who lashed eight fours and a six in his 52, led a revival by adding

84 for the fifth wicket with Paul Johnson.

However, Munton dismissed both batsmen in the space of six deliveries and the rest of the innings soon folded.

Munton and South African fast bowler Allan Donald, who took two key early wickets, dismissed Nottinghamshire for 166 on the first day of their four-day game at Trent Bridge.

Warwickshire, spurred by an unbeaten 62 from Wasim Khan, had reached 139 for two at the close.

The third-placed champions want to cut a 21-point deficit on Northants, who have played one game more and are not involved in the current round of fixtures.

Donald plunged Notts into trouble by dispatching openers Paul Pollard and Tim Robison cheaply and Munton, how had a spell of four for 16 in 11 overs, pressed home the early advantage.

Notts slumped to 44 for four before New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns, who lashed eight fours and a six in his 52, led a revival by adding

Hooper hogs the headlines



SOUTHAMPTON, England, Aug 18: Carl Hooper thrashed 10 sixes, including one that passed through the window of a house, as West Indies thumped Hampshire for 561 runs in the day on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Hooper hammered 195 and opener Sherwin Campbell struck 172 to power the touring team from their overnight 135 for one to 696 for six at the close on the second day of their three-day match.

Replies to Hampshire's modest first innings of 192, the West Indians enjoyed a run feast on perfect batting pitch in which captain Richie Richardson hit 83, wicket-keeper Courtney Browne scored an unbeaten 74 and Keith Arthuron made 59.

Campbell, who began the day on 76, went on to his best score on the tour, an inning containing one six and 30 fours, but it was Hooper who stole the spotlight.

Apart from his 10 sixes — the one that he smashed out of the ground passed through the bedroom window of a house in an adjoining road — he stroked 20 fours.

Hooper was out attempting his 11th six, caught at the wicket by Adrian Aymes off a skier.

Richardson overcame a slow start to hit four of the 15 sixes struck during the day's play before he was

highest total by any team in first-class cricket this season.

They need only another 47 to beat the highest total ever made against Hampshire — 742 by Surrey at The Oval in 1909.



CARL HOOPER ... the amercer

Lara wants a break

LONDON, Aug 18: West Indian Test batsman Brian Lara has asked his English county side Warwickshire if he can delay his return as their overseas player, one of his business advisers, David Mannasseh, said today, reports Reuter.

Lara, currently on tour in England with the West Indies, is under contract to reappear for Warwickshire from 1996 but has now told the county champions that he would prefer to take a rest and return a year later.

Whenever Brian plays he wants to be able to perform to the best of his ability and the fact is he's been on the road virtually non-stop for two years. He just feels he needs a break," said Mannasseh.

Warwickshire said a final decision could hinge on whether South Africa fast bowler Allan Donald was prepared to continue in the overseas spot at Edgbaston next summer.

Chief executive Dennis Amiss said: "One of them will be overseas player in 1996. If Brian plays next summer, Allan will be here as a coach. If Allan carries on as a player, Brian can come back for 1997 and 1998."

Mannasseh added: "Warwickshire have been very understanding but obviously if they cannot get Allan Donald for next season the Brian will honour his contract."

Twose, Gale in new-look Kiwi squad

WELLINGTON, Aug 18: New Zealand Cricket selectors on Friday named two new caps, seam bowler Aaron Gale and Warwickshire all-rounder Roger Twose, in the team to tour India in October this year, reports Reuter.

The team is the first named by Glenn Turner since he took over as both convenor of selectors and coach.

The former Test batsman has already signalled radical changes by dropping former captain Ken Rutherford both from the captaincy and the team and replacing him with uncapped wicketkeeper Lee Germon.

The inclusion of the English-born Twose, 27, was widely tipped since he qualified for New Zealand selection last April after playing at first-class level here each season since 1989-90.

The inclusion of Gale, who bowls barely above medium pace, was less widely expected although he is a solid performer for his Otago province.

New Zealand will play three Tests and six one-day internationals during the tour, which begins on October 7.

The team: Lee Germon (captain), Chris Cairns, Martin Crowe, Simon Doull, Stephen Fleming, Aaron Gale, Mark Greatbatch, Matthew Hart, Danny Morrison, Dion Nash, Adam Parore, Dipak Patel, Shane Thomson, Roger Twose, Bryan Young.

Ilyina strikes maiden gold

VIENNA, Aug 18: Vera Ilyina of Russia claimed the first title of the 22nd European Swimming Championships when she won the women's three-metre springboard diving final today, reports Reuter.

Australian Michael Bevan (95), David Byas (76) and Ashley Metcalfe (55 not out) were the main contributors to Yorkshire's excellent opening day effort.

England off-spinning all-rounder Mike Watkinson provided a measure of respite for Lancashire by snapping up three wickets in six overs after Yorkshire reached 303 for three.

England off-spinning all-rounder Mike Watkinson provided a measure of respite for Lancashire by snapping up three wickets in six overs after Yorkshire reached 303 for three.

Australian Michael Bevan (95), David Byas (76) and Ashley Metcalfe (55 not out) were the main contributors to Yorkshire's excellent opening day effort.

England off-spinning all-rounder Mike Watkinson provided a measure of respite for Lancashire by snapping up three wickets in six overs after Yorkshire reached 303 for three.

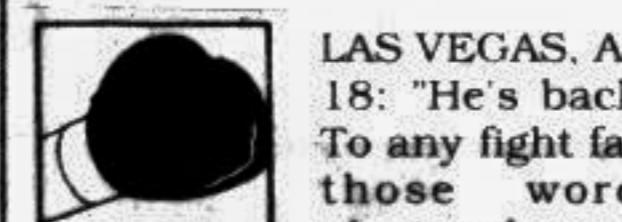
Australian Michael Bevan (95), David Byas (76) and Ashley Metcalfe (55 not out) were the main contributors to Yorkshire's excellent opening day effort.

England off-spinning all-rounder Mike Watkinson provided a measure of respite for Lancashire by snapping up three wickets in six overs after Yorkshire reached 303 for three.

Australian Michael Bevan (95), David Byas (76) and Ashley Metcalfe (55 not out) were the main contributors to Yorkshire's excellent opening day effort.

The men's and women's water polo tournaments got underway today and synchronised swimming was continuing with the duet technical programme.

World awaits Tyson's thunder



LAS VEGAS, Aug 18: "He's back." To any fight fan, those words plastered on posters, T-shirts and buttons all over town can only mean that Mike Tyson is out of prison and ready to fight on Saturday for the first time in four years, reports Reuter.

But that may be all anyone will learn from Tyson's scheduled 10-round bout against Peter McNeeley. Judging from McNeeley's prodigious lack of world-class talent, Tyson's biggest worry on Saturday will be to avoid hurting himself climbing into the ring in the MGM's Grand Garden.

After all, Tyson's handlers had scored the country for just the right opponent to test the affects on the former undisputed heavyweight champion of his long layoff.

Therefore, McNeeley, 26, seems to be the perfect opponent to start the 17-1 favoured Tyson, 29, on his quest to recapture the undisputed heavyweight championship.

Tyson has been kept virtually in seclusion, except for brief forays under very controlled conditions, to try to sell the pay-per-view cable television fight. It is being broadcast by Showtime Even

Television for as much as 49.95 dollars if ordered in advance and more if ordered

peared to be more like whistling past a cemetery than conviction.

Tyson's return is so anticipated that for the first time in the memory of many ringsiders, a world heavyweight championship fight is taking second billing to a non-title fight.

Also on the Tyson-McNeeley card is World Boxing Association (WBA) champion Bruce Seldon (32-3) defending his title against knockout native American Joe Hipp (30-3).

The card also includes World Boxing Champion (WBC) middleweight champion Julian Jackson putting his crown on