

## Lions' reprise the roar

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 19: Cameroon revived their African Nations' Cup hopes with a thrilling 2-1 win over Egypt in a Group A match on Thursday, reports Reuter.

A stunning second-half winner from Alphonse Tchami put the 1990 World Cup quarterfinalists back in the competition after their 3-0 mauling by hosts South Africa in the opening game on Saturday.

Tchami, who plays for Boca Juniors in Argentina, broke away from the Egyptian defence and took a direct route to goal in the 59th minute to hammer a close-range shot past the Egyptian custodian gaining the upper-hand after trailing 1-0 at half-time.

Cameroon's captain Francois Omam Biyik scored the opening goal from the penalty spot after 36 minutes following a foul on Tchami by full back Yasser Radwan.

But Egypt were continually on the attack and should have been ahead at the break with both captain Ahmed al Kass and fellow forward Aly Maher missing gilt-edged opportunities.

The equaliser eventually came three minutes into the second half when Maher took advantage of some sloppy goalkeeping by Boukar Alioum to poach a goal.

Alioum failed to hold on to Hazem Eman's long-range shot and Maher nipped in to net the rebound for his seventh goal in as many international appearances.

Seconds later substitute Mohamed Salah Abu Greisha missed another easy chance and Egypt were to pay for their indiscretion when Tchami stole away to score the winner 10 minutes later.

## Messabih takes Algeria atop

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Jan 19: Striker Ali Messabih scored both goals as Algeria beat Sierra Leone 2-0 on Thursday to move to the top of Group B of the African Nations' Cup, reports Reuter.

But the match an entertaining evenly-balanced affair was watched by a crowd of only 1,500 people and the low attendance has caused concern to the tournament's organisers.

Algeria, looking for their second Africa title after winning the crown in 1990, followed up Sunday's opening 0-0 draw with Zambia, with three vital points that gives them four from their opening two matches and moves them a point above Sierra Leone.

Zambia and Burkina Faso meet in the next group match here on Saturday.

Messabih headed Algeria ahead on the stroke of half-time after a cross from Ouzaniel Cherif. Minutes earlier he had missed a clear chance to score with a shot that flew over the bar after a good Algerian build-up.

In the 63rd minute Cherif and Messabih combined for Algeria's second goal which effectively clinched the points.

Sierra Leone, coached by Swed Roger Palmgren, were not overawed, although only some good goalkeeping from Brima Atouga Kamara kept them in the game in the early stages.

Mohammed Kallon at the age of 15 last year became one of the youngest international scorers in soccer history, caused Algeria some problems before being substituted 15 minutes from time.

Algerian coach Ali Fergani said it was vital for his team to win. "Otherwise we would have had trouble qualifying for the quarterfinals," he said.

Palmgren said he did want to blame anybody for the defeat and said that a coup back in Sierra Leone on Wednesday had not affected his players.

Both teams must now wait until next Wednesday to play their final group matches with Algeria meeting Burkina Faso in Port Elizabeth and Sierra Leone remaining in Bloemfontein to play Zambia.

## Weah's ultimatum

DURBAN, Jan 19: World Footballer-of-the-year George Weah has threatened to quit playing for Liberia after the African Nations' Cup, reports Reuter.

He is unhappy with the support given to the national side by Liberian soccer authorities.

"If the conditions don't change then I am resigning from the Liberian side. I have already told the officials and coaches that," said Weah after a training session in Durban on Thursday night.

"We must improve the team and must have better facilities. We can't go on like this. It's not just a question of finance — it's everything. Government money would help to support a better team."

It is understood that Weah, who plays for Italian club A C Milan, spent his own money on air tickets for the African trip.

"I am supposedly the world's best player and yet I don't have a good (Liberian) team to play with. And, to be honest, I don't need to play for the national side."

Weah said he wanted young Liberian players to be sent to international training camps, financed by those who are responsible for the team."



Herrera of Espanol (R) clears the ball before dangerman Ivan Zamorano (C) of Real Madrid can pounce on it during their Kings Cup tournament encounter in Madrid on Jan 18. Espanol won 2-1.

— AFP/UNB photo

## Brazil owe Balboa one



LOS ANGELES,

Jan 19: Brazil, shut down for much of the game by a tough American defence, beat the United States 1-0 thanks to an own-goal by Marcello Balboa Thursday in the semifinal of the CONCACAF Gold Cup, reports Reuter.

In Sunday's final they will play the winners of the Mexico-Guatemala semifinal in San Diego today.

For the Americans it was a disappointing result after they looked the better team for most of the game which they had hoped to avenge two recent 1-0 defeats to Brazil.

Eric Wynalda, who needed one goal to become the all-time leading scorer for the US national team, missed a good chance just before half-time that would have given the Americans the upper-hand.

Brazil, the current world champions had beaten them in the second round of the World Cup in 1994 and in the semifinal of the Copa America last September.

This time, Brazil sent their under-23 team and had played brilliant attacking soccer in first-round matches

against Canada and Honduras.

But after pressing in the early stages against the United States full international team, the young Brazilian forwards Savio and Caio started to get frustrated and run out of ideas.

When they scored the winning goal in the 80th

minute, it came against the run of play. Savio broke down the left and with Alex Lalas challenging, he tried a low centre which deflected off the lunging Balboa and into the net past goalkeeper Kasey Keller.

The Americans, who played on Tuesday, absorbed most of the pressure in the first half against a lively Brazilian team that had scored nine goals in their two first-round matches and was well rested since Sunday.

Twice Brazil went close in the first 20 minutes. First Jamille hit the post with a low shot from 15 yards and then he forced Keller to tip his header from a Savio cross over the bar.

Savio and Caio both caused early trouble in the American defence for whom American player-of-the-night Lalas was outstanding.

But the United States gradually took over and should have taken the lead in the 41st minute when John Harkes played a beautiful ball to Wynalda, who had a yarning goal in front of him but Wynalda shot weakly from five yards and the ball was blocked on the goal line by a sprawling defender Ze Maria.

But Maradona's manager Guillermo Coppola said he thought Maradona was unlikely to leave Boca Juniors.

"I don't think that is likely to happen, now, because Diego feels he owes Boca fans a cup first," Coppola said.

## Aussies paying the price



MELBOURNE,

Jan 19: A number of Australian players may pull out of the squad to go to next month's cricket World Cup after receiving extremist threats to their safety, reports said Thursday.

Skipper Mark Taylor said withdrawals were a "possibility" and concerns are being taken so seriously by Australian Cricket Board (ACB) has said it will back any player that declines an invitation, according to the Australian newspaper.

Several players are reported to have been the target of threatening letters sent to the ACB after an angry series against Pakistan and then more controversy during Sri Lanka's visit.

Pakistan and India are hosting most of the tournament, but Australia must also go to Sri Lanka which is putting Sri Lanka's visit.

"We are all hoping it will not come to that and are doing our best in regard with some excellent help from overseas."

Pakistan's visit to Australia late last year was clouded by allegations of bribery made by Australian players Shane Warne and Tim May. The Pakistan authorities cleared Malik and he came on the tour of Australia.

Sri Lanka's stay in Australia has been dominated by the treatment of spin bowler Muttiah Muralitharan who has been called no ball several times for throwing.

The Sri Lankan delegation are reported to have made an official complaint about Australian umpire Darrell Hair.

Halbush said: "If any individual chose not to accept the ACB's invitation then that decision would not, in any way, prejudice his future in Australian cricket."

"It has been made clear to the players that if any one of them has sufficient concerns with regard to his personal safety, and his family share those concerns, then the ACB would give complete support."

Taylor said before the first World Series Cup final against Sri Lanka in Melbourne that defectors were a possibility.

"But I really hope it doesn't come about because everyone wants to play in a World Cup and we'll be making every effort to be there."

From now, we're putting that behind us. That will be the number one issue, at the

end of this series. But I'd be lying to you if I said it hadn't been mentioned."

Australia's first match in the World Cup is against Sri Lanka in Colombo on February 17. They then move to India to play Kenya in Visakhapatnam of February 23 and India in Bombay of Feb 27.

AFP from Karachi adds: All players at the cricket World Cup will be given full security, officials here said Thursday following report in Australia that some players had received threats.

"We are unaware of the death threats and this is the first we are hearing of it," said Clive Richards, an official with the International Management Group (IMG), the company responsible for event management and security in Pakistan during the World Cup.

"All players will be afforded maximum security while in Pakistan," Richards told AFP. "Security arrangements are already in the advanced planning stage."

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) is taking seriously threats made against players in letters ahead of the tournament, which runs for one month from mid-February.

Players and officials are to meet in Adelaide next Wednesday to make a final decision over what to do about the extremist threats.

ACB chairman Denis Rogers and chief executive Graham Habish went to India and Sri Lanka last week to seek security guarantees.

Halbush was quoted as saying he was confident Australia will compete so long as there is no deterioration in the present situation.

But said some individuals may withdraw. "Personal safety is a genuine concern. The assurances we have been given do help but they might not be entirely sufficient for

the players to go to next month's cricket World Cup."

Players and officials are to meet next week to discuss the threats and skipper Mark Taylor has said withdrawals by some players are a possibility.

Australia's preliminary

matches are in Sri Lanka and India, but they would probably play the quarterfinals, semi-finals and final in Pakistan if they got that far.

In truth there was never any such discussion, Tyson said on Thursday.

Foreman and Tyson was not in our plans for this summer," King said from his Florida office.

Nevertheless, Time Warner, which was set to broadcast the bout on pay-per-view, balked after hearing the comments, saying they had taken the fight with the understanding that it would be Foreman's last.

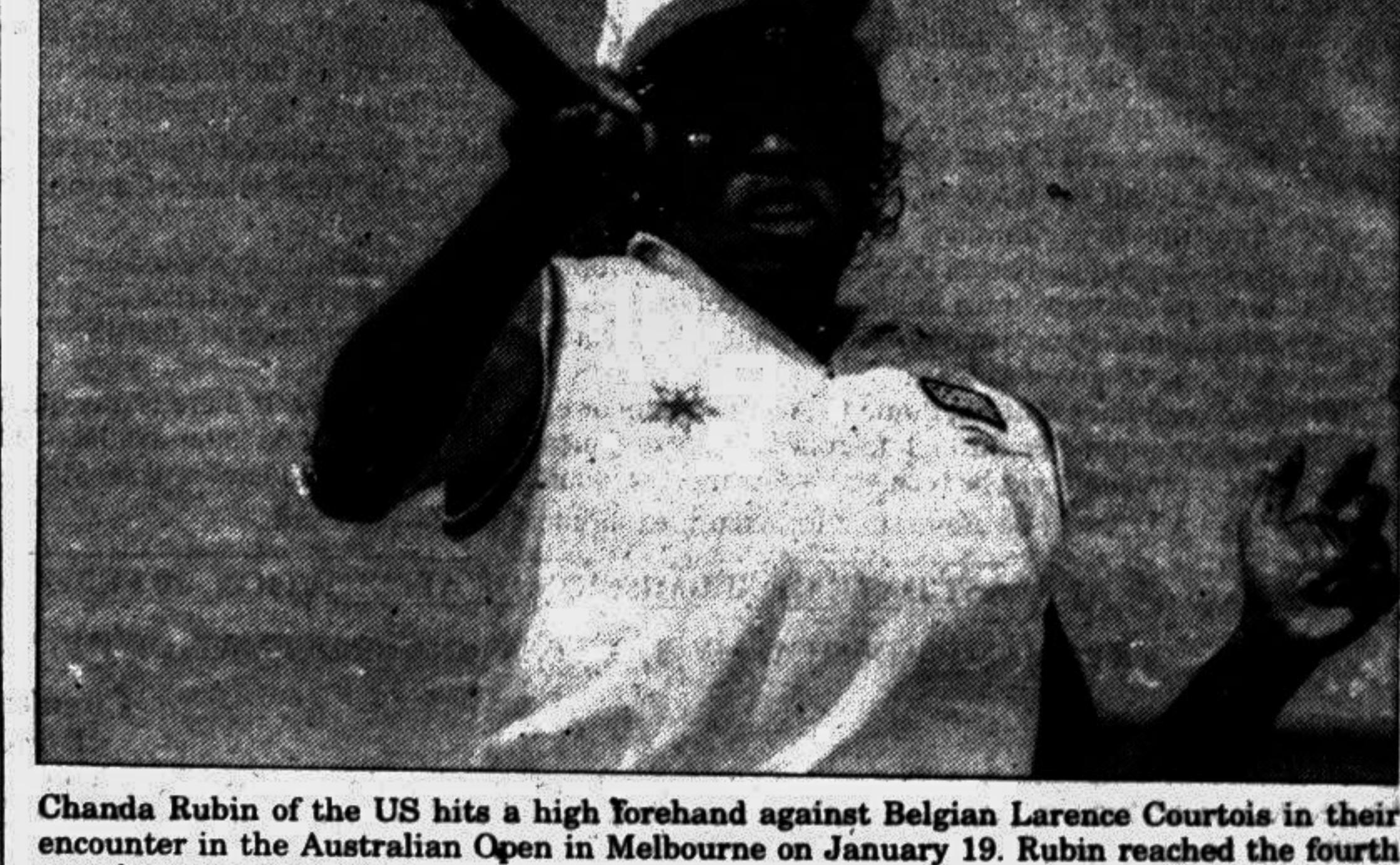
Time Warner insisted on putting in a clause in the contract that allowed them to withhold payment of the purses to ensure it was indeed Foreman's finale.

"I couldn't accept that. If I did I could lose my promotional license," Arum told Reuters from his Las Vegas office. "There is nothing to negotiate here. It is either an unconditional payment or no fight."

But Arum would not slam the door shut on the bout that was expected to earn foreman 10 million dollars and Moore 2.7 million dollars.

"My sanity is involved here, we move the date of the fight back to April," Arum said. "Foreman wants to do that."

In a written statement, Time Warner sports president Seth Abraham also held out hope of televising the fight at a later date.



Chanda Rubin of the US hits a high forehand against Belgian Larence Courtois in their encounter in the Australian Open in Melbourne on January 19. Rubin reached the fourth round winning 6-0, 6-2.

## Singapore to host triangular in April

Singapore is to host a triangular cricket tournament between India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka shortly after those three countries have staged the World Cup, says a press release.

Joe Gimberg, president of the Singapore Cricket Association, said the tournament would be held in the week beginning April 1.

It will be the first major cricket tournament hosted by Singapore.

Syed Ashraful Huq, a member of the Asian Cricket Council, is the chief co-ordinator of the tournament.

A total of US 70,000 dollars will be at stake with the winners taking 30,000 dollars, the runner-up 20,000 dollars and the third placed team 10,000 dollars. The balance of 10,000 dollars will be divided between the man-of-the-tournament and men-of-the-matches.

### FIXTURES

April 1st: Pakistan Vs Sri Lanka

April 3rd: Sri Lanka Vs India

April 5th: India Vs Pakistan

April 7th: Final

### Past greats to help out the Indians

BANGALORE, Jan 19: Eight international cricketers would be helping the Indian team in its preparation for the cricket World Cup to be held in the Indian sub-continent, reports PTI.

The internationals would be part of a team that would play two warm-up matches in Delhi and Bombay on February 6 and 8, batting legend Sunil Gavaskar told reporters here yesterday.

Savio and Caio both caused early trouble in the American defence for whom American player-of-the-night Lalas was outstanding.

But the United States gradually took over and should have taken the lead in the 41st minute when John Harkes played a beautiful ball to Wynalda, who had a yarning goal in front of him but Wynalda shot weakly from five yards and the ball was blocked on the goal line by a sprawling defender Ze Maria.

Meanwhile, cricket manager Ajit Wadekar could not attend the camp yesterday due to indisposition.

Gavaskar arrived here yesterday to attend the conditioning camp for the probables for the World Cup. He would be at the camp today and tomorrow to help the probables.

Meanwhile, cricket manager Ajit Wadekar could not attend the camp yesterday due to indisposition.

Those bare statistics suggest only an average performer, but injuries, bad form, and the frailty of the team around him have hampered Cairns' development as a top-class all-rounder.

Gavaskar arrived here yesterday to attend the conditioning camp for the probables for the World Cup. He would be at the camp today and tomorrow to help the probables.

But with the benefit of a successful season at English

## Second Test against Zimbabwe today

## NZ opt for more pace

WELLINGTON, Jan 19: Pace bowler Kerry Walmsley will likely be recalled to the New Zealand side to inject some fire into the attack for the second Test against Zimbabwe starting in Auckland on Saturday, reports Reuter.

New Zealand's lack of Test experience and bowling depth was highlighted by their failure to press for victory after making early inroads into the Zimbabwe batting line-up in both innings of the drawn first Test in Hamilton earlier this week.

Walmsley, 12th man for the rain-affected Test, looks likely to resume his international career and share the new ball with Chris Cairns at Eden Park.

The batting line-up won't change, but we have to decide which seamer to leave out," said coach Glenn Turner.

New Zealand's seam attack performed indifferently in the first Test, with newcomers Geoff Allott and Robert Kennedy lacking the venom and penetration.

Walmsley played two Tests last year against the visiting Sri Lankans and captured eight wickets, but was overlooked or the one-off Test against Pakistan at the end of the year. He was 12th man for the first Test against Zimbabwe.

All-rounder Gavin Larsen has been recalled to fill the gap left by injured leg-spinner Greg Loderidge, who