

'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 Reuters.

A stunning second-half winner from Alphonsse 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 then Maher took advantage of some sloppy goalkeeping by Boukar Alioum to punch a goal.

Alioum failed to hold on to Hazem Emam'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 Grisha missed another easy change 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 Reuters.

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 here on Saturday.

Messabih headed Algeria ahead on the stroke of half-time after a cross from Ouzanier 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 Swede 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 become 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 Reuters.

"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 South 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 Golf Cup, reports Reuters.

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 a 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

Maradona for Flamengo?

BUEENOS AIRES, Jan 19: Brazil's Flamengo want to sign Diego Maradona, a Flamengo official said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

"We will initiate negotiations with the owners of Maradona's contract," Plinio Pinto told a Buenos Aires radio station from Rio de Janeiro.

"If we succeed, Flamengo will have the two best players of the world in the past five years playing together," he said referring to Brazil's Romario.

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.

minute, it came against the run of play. Savio broke down the left and with Alexi 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 Jamelli 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-year 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 yawning 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.

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 Ashrafu Hui, 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.

Eight former Test cricketers — Vivian Richards, Gordon Greenidge, Peter Such, Peter Hartley, Mark Alleyne, Guss Logie, Phil Tufnell and Ezra Mosley — had confirmed their participation. A batsman and a bowler from the reserves and a local wicketkeeper would complete the World XI, Gavaskar said.

Jagmohan Dalmiya, secretary, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), would decide the venues for the warm-up matches, he added.

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

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

Foreman-Moorer bout ruled out

NEW YORK, Jan 19: The off-again, on-again George Foreman farewell fight against Michael Mooror at Madison Square Garden is officially off — for now, reports Reuters.

The Foreman-Moorer rematch set for February 29 at the Garden has at last been ruled out, but a later date matching the two fighters is still possible, according to all parties involved.

"It seems to me that the fighters want to fight, that Time Warner (television) and the promoter are still interested so certainly it is still feasible to make," said Garden vice president John Cirillo.

The Foreman-Moorer rematch had been scheduled as the cornerstone of the Garden's 25th anniversary celebration of the first Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier fight and was expected to be the farewell fight for the 47-year-old Foreman.

The fight began to fall apart when Foreman and his promoter Bob Arum commented publicly about a possible Foreman-Mike Tyson fight this summer.

In truth there was never any such discussion, Tyson promoter Don King 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 Mooror 2.7 million dollars.

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

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

Second Test against Zimbabwe today

NZ opt for more pace

WELLINGTON, Jan 19: Pace bowler Kerry Walsmsley 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 Reuters.

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.

Walsmsley, 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.

Walsmsley played two Tests last year against the visiting Sri Lankans and captured

eight wickets, but was overlooked on 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 Loveridge, who broke his finger while batting in the first Test.

Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower indicated his side would also make changes for the second Test.

One probable victim is Henry Olonga, whose style does not seem to suit New Zealand's slowish pitches. He was erratic and expensive in the first Test, giving away 20 runs in the three overs he bowled in New Zealand's second innings.

Guy Whittall batted with distinction at Hamilton, scoring 54 for Zimbabwe in the first innings, and the Flower brothers, Andy and Grant, showed their class with both hitting half-centuries in the second innings.

But it was a poor team effort against an equally poor New Zealand bowling attack. Alistair Campbell, who failed in both innings, could lose his spot to youngster Sean Davies.

While New Zealand's batting lineup will remain unchanged for the second Test, Turner said more discipline was needed from the top order.

"It is a case of telling them to over be satisfied," Turner said. "They have to go through the mental processes required to bat a long time."

Adam Parore top-scored in the first Test with 84 not out, but he was the only Kiwi to make post a half-century.

The pitch is expected to be lively in the first two sessions, favouring the team that bowls first.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (one to be omitted): Lee Gernon (captain), Craig Spearman, Roger Twose, Stephen Fleming, Adam Parore, Nathan Oestle, Chris Cairns, Gavin Larsen, Dipak Patel, Robert Kennedy, Geoff Allott, Kerry Walsmsley.

ZIMBABWE (from): Andy Flower (captain), Grant Flower, Stuart Carlisle, Alistair Campbell, David Houghton, Guy Whittall, Heath Streak, Paul Strang, Henry Olonga, Eddie Brandes, Bryan Strang, Sean Davies, Charlie Lock, Stephen Pople, Chris Wishart.

Cairns comes to the fore

WELLINGTON, Jan 19: New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns, to date one of the underachievers of world cricket, has finally come of age and is ready to show his class at the 1996 World Cup, reports Reuters.

Cairns, the 25-year-old son of former Test all-rounder Lance Cairns, has long been regarded in New Zealand as possessing an abundance of unfulfilled talent.

In 29 one-day internationals he has taken 27 wickets at a cost of 33 runs apiece and scored 586 runs at an average of 27.

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.

But with the benefit of a successful season at English

county side Nottinghamshire behind him, Cairns at last looks a like delivering what

he has previously only promised.

"For sure he's a key man," former Test wicketkeeper Warren Lees, who coached

New Zealand at the 1992 tournament, told Reuters. "He's a real match-winner."

Cairns finished eighth in the bowling average for the English County Championship, taking 52 wickets at a cost of 19.90 runs apiece.

He produced arguably the single best performance of the first-class season, when he took a career-best eight for 47 and seven for 36 to give Notts a crushing 10-wicket win over Sussex.

However, it is with the bat that Cairns has made his most telling contributions at international level recently.

Cairns scored an 88-ball hundred against India at Pune November that contained 10 fours and four sixes. He was one of the best-performing New Zealanders in the recent Test against Pakistan, scoring 76 and taking six wickets.

Despite Cairns' best efforts, New Zealand lost the one-day series 1-3 and drew the limited overs series against World Cup holders Pakistan 2-2.

But they gained valuable experience of conditions in India, where they play two of their five group games, while the series against Pakistan gave the young team much-needed self-belief.

Cairns has also been an outstanding performer in domestic cricket, moulding his Canterbury side into champions of the local one-day competition.

While not in the mould of his father, who won worldwide fame for his effective but rudimentary big hitting, Cairns believes attack is the best form of defence.

"Cairns must have a Roger Twose or a Stephen Fleming playing a different role, working the ball around, if he gets going. The rest of the team must let him do his thing and support him," Lees said.

Cairns was struck by injury problems in his debut Test in 1989, when he damaged his back trying to bowl too fast on an unforgiving Perth wicket.

He now bowls at a sharpish medium-pace concentrating more on using his 1.93 metres of height to extract bounce and seam movement rather than rely on pace or swing.

He is likely to open the bowling with veteran pacerman Danny Morrison, with Gavin Larsen the probable third seamer.

He also missed New Zealand's infamous 1994-95 tour of South Africa when they lost the Test series 2-1 and several team members were censured for marijuana-smoking and other off-field breaches of discipline.

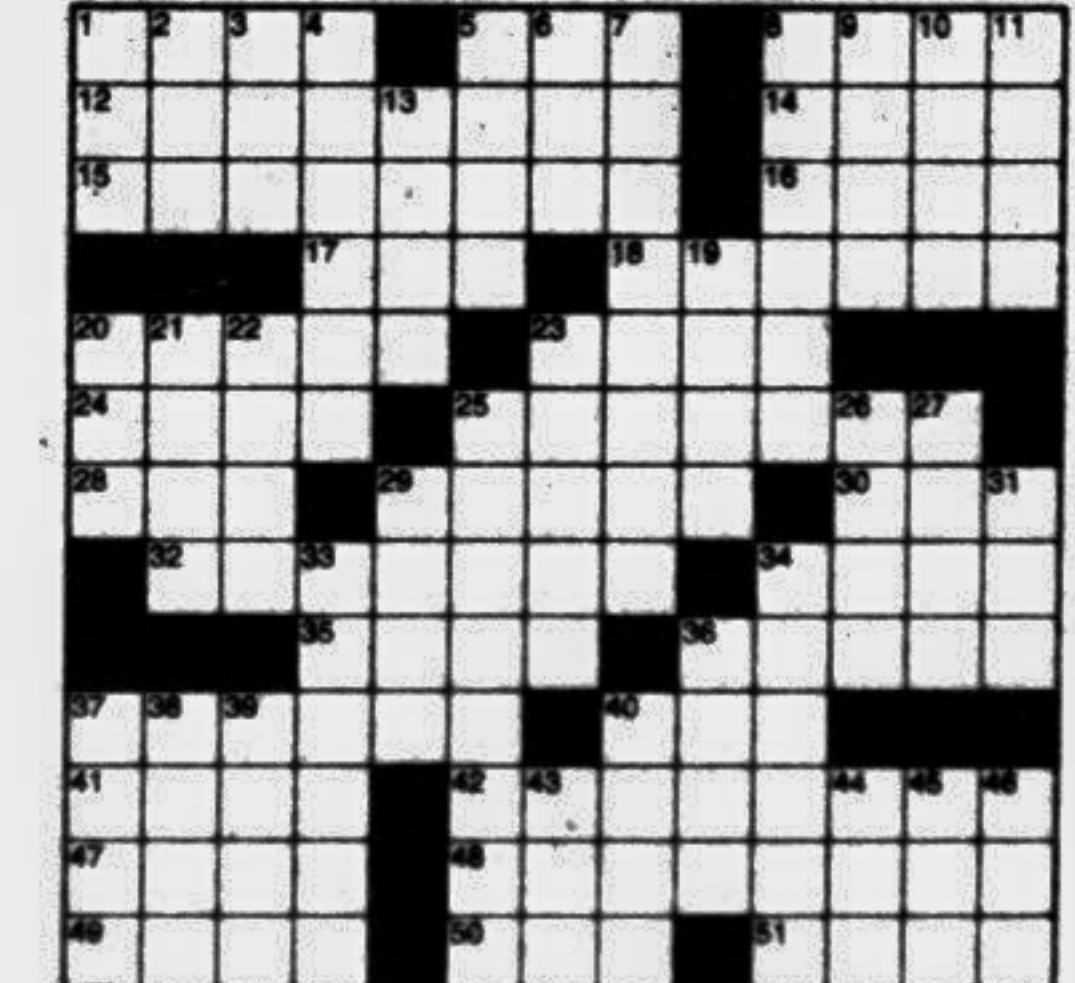
US soccer star Alexi Lalas poses with the Honda player-of-the-year trophy — awarded to the best American soccer player — at the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City, California on Jan 17. — AFP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 He raised Cain
5 Eccentric
9 Newcastle superfluity
12 Maine emblem
14 Gumbo base
15 Highway egress
16 Quarter halves
17 "2001" computer
18 Least refined
20 He's real
23 Vegas rollers
24 Saharan herbs
25 Herbie of moviedom
26 Kettle companion
28 Started a garden
30 Chasm
32 Construction
34 Caesar's "One of"
35 Twelve (Wilkes plantation)
36 Atlanta's temptation

DOWN
2 New Jersey fort
3 Blackbird
4 Way
6 Spoken
8 Rap's rival
10 Divests
11 Love
13 Fit for the trash
14 Pierce Brosnan role
16 Shen of tennis
19 Caesar and Fernandez
21 Make it all the way
22 Mimic
27 Tom Joad
28 Shiner
29 Letters' mates
31 Half a fly?
33 Hit the horn
34 La Scala shows
36 Arctic divers
37 Grouch
38 Tramp
39 Destruction
40 Cylindrical container
43 Literary collection
44 — Wan Kenobi
45 Timeworn
46 — arms

BRAS CHAY MEO
OUGH HERE EVA
ALLA UHS NEW
SEER TOO DUNK
ONE OF
SMELLS YOKER
ROCKS WHITE
GRABIN HEDYDAY
TINA TING
AXIS PAN ELAM
URAN SKID MORE
AIA AUDIE LILS
OYE GNAR BODA
Saturday's answer 6-29



CRYPTOQUIP
N A B S B M B F I S W J I S E B W
L F D S Q D G Z S M B G E E A B P
J U N J P G U Z X B E D
L I Q X E A B E F B S W G
Saturday's Cryptquip: THE PLAIN ARMY RECENTLY MET THE STRIPED ARMY AND THEY CLASHED.
Today's Cryptquip clue: 5 equals N
The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



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