

Sport

TODAY'S EURO '96 FIXTURES

Today is a rest day.

EURO '96 STANDINGS

LONDON, June 11 (Agencies): Following are the Euro '96 group standings Monday:

Group A standings after the Holland-Scotland match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

England	1	0	1	0	1	1
Switzerland	1	0	1	0	1	1
Holland	1	0	1	0	0	1
Scotland	1	0	1	0	0	1

Group B standings after the France-Romania match:

France	1	1	0	0	1	0
Spain	1	0	1	0	1	1
Bulgaria	1	0	1	0	1	1
Romania	1	0	0	1	0	1

Drink & gulp soccer down

LONDON, June 11: An English soccer fan has moved out of his home into the local pub so he can drink in every minute of the European championship, reports Reuter.

James Quinn, 20, has taken a spare room at the Albion Pub in Bristol, Western England, and will watch every game from his favorite bar stool.

Quinn is paying Landlord Adam Burke less rent than he usually pays his parents for the privilege of watching all 31 Euro '96 matches.

"People used to say I spent so much time here it was like a second home — now it's my first," he said today.

90 pc Euro '96 tickets sold

LONDON, June 11: More than 90 per cent of tickets for Euro '96 have been sold and less than 130,000 remain unsold, organisers said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Nine of the remaining 27 games are sold out and four more are nearly sold out, tournament director Glen Kirtton said. "We have sold more than 90 per cent of the 1.4 million tickets available for the tournament as a whole — 20 per cent more than our original sales projection," Kirtton said in a statement.

"We expect that the limited number of tickets still remaining will be snapped up quickly as the tournament progresses and public interest builds."

Bal's belated wisdom!

NEW DELHI, June 11: Hindu militant leader Bal Thackeray today paid a surprise compliment to Pakistani cricket players for their commitment to the game, but said the Indian XI lacked similar discipline, reports AFP.

The United News of India quoted Thackeray as saying in Bombay, which is ruled by his Shiv Sena party, that the Pakistani cricketers "put everything behind their country and Islam while playing."

This, however, was lacking among Indian players," he said.

Thackeray, a cricket fan, said Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin "was more interested in beauty outside the cricket ground while (his deputy) Sachin Tendulkar was more into modelling."

The reference to Azharuddin was his known friendship with a movie actress.

Thackeray is a bitter critic of Pakistan, India's arch foe, and had once threatened to break the legs of Pakistani cricket players if they set foot in Bombay.

Goram rallies behind 'Gazza'

LONDON, June 11: Goalkeeper Andy Goram, hero of Scotland's 0-0 draw with Holland, has leapt to the defense of his Ranger's teammate Paul Gascoigne, reports AFP.

While Goram has been basking in glory after pulling off a stunning point-blank range save to deny the Dutch a goal, Gascoigne has been pilloried in the press for his performance in last Saturday's Euro '96 opener.

Gascoigne was pulled off in the second half as he seemed barely able to get up a trot.

"The stick he has had in the press here has been an absolute disgrace, so I will send him a couple of fax to get his spirits up," said Goram.

Also rushing to Gascoigne's defense has been English manager Terry Venables.

"I found some of the criticism directed at Gazza vicious, vindictive, and pathetic," said an upset Venables.

Critics have demanded Gascoigne be dropped for the vital clash next Saturday when England face their old enemy — Scotland.

But despite his staunch defense of Gascoigne, Venables refused to commit himself to whether or not the Ranger's player will start the match.

"It was a disappointing second half performance. But when people start to blame Gazza they ought to remember that seven or eight of our players were tired during the game."

"In my opinion it was not a case of any lack of physical fitness that we tired, but because we were not doing things we have been doing on the pitch," said Venables.

And he was adamant that Venables did not sit out this week's training sessions to recharge his batteries.

"I don't think he has been overdoing it," said Venables.

'Danish wall' up to mark



SHEFFIELD, England, June 11 (AP): Peter Schmeichel lived up to his pre-tournament billing as his series of bore-taking saves served as a reminder that Denmark can never be disregarded.

Though fairytale winners four years ago after repelling Yugoslavia, who were banned because of their civil war, many have discounted the holders at Euro '96.

But Schmeichel's virginal display at Hillsborough, which singlehandedly earned a 1-1 draw against fancied Portugal, surely means, with him between the posts, there's always hope.

The 32-year-old keeper pulled off a fabulous one-handed save from Rui Costa and darted bravely off his line to make his trademark save of a pointblank shot from Joao Pinto.

Keepers are a rare breed. Like England's Peter Shilton, Schmeichel is an intense perfectionist with a professional, single-minded, aggressive approach to his game.

But keepers need to be. One mistake and the game is lost. So they cover up their fear of letting down teammates with an almost irrational obsession to get it right.

Schmeichel is no different. He yells at opponents and teammates constantly. He demands from his defence as much as he demands from himself. Though unsavory to élites, he commands instant respect, if not always goodwill, by his vocal style.

And the record is second to none.

Having won the double with Manchester United this year for the second time, in three seasons, plus the 1992 European Championships with Denmark, and being voted world's best goalkeeper in 1992 and 1993, Schmeichel knows what he's doing.

Schmeichel could also become the first keeper to win a league and cup double and a major international title in the same year, and, of course, the first keeper to retain the trophy because no country has ever managed that.

At United, it is centre backs Steve Bruce and Gary Pallister.

Scherbo, the family man

KIEV, Ukraine (Reuters): Five months ago Vitaly Scherbo, the most successful gymnast of all time, sat in the bedside of his critically-injured wife, determined to give up the sport he loved.

But wife Irina made a remarkable recovery from a near-fatal car crash and it was she who persuaded Scherbo to resume training for the defense of his six Olympic titles in Atlanta.

"At that time I put gymnastics aside," Belarussian Scherbo said of the accident. "I simply didn't care at all about sports."

Irina, mother of Scherbo's three-year-old daughter Kristina and a former sports acrobat, was given only a slim chance of survival after her car veered off the road and crashed into a telegraph pole near the family's home in the United States.

She spent weeks in intensive care and underwent surgery three times.

"When she returned to consciousness she asked me not to give up my sport," said Scherbo, who has won a record 14 World Championship gold medals in his career.

"But it wasn't easy. For almost two months I didn't do any sports. I gained weight and my psychological stability suffered during that time. But I managed to overcome all of that."

Scherbo, whose achievement of six golds at one Olympics has only once been bettered — by American swimmer Mark Spitz who took seven in 1972 — began a comeback by taking the floor gold and two less-severe medals at the individual World Championships in Puerto Rico.

affectionately nicknamed "Dolly and Daisy" for the way they nag at each other during matches who feel the heat most.

Though Bruce and Pallister tend to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his all-too-audible advice with the emotional force of a megaton bomb.

Schmeichel, who has 85

caps, is not perfect, however.

Some believe he can be a little shaky at crosses, and others question why he has to charge out of his area late in the game and use his height at a corner.

But should Denmark go one up in any match, feel sorry for the poor old forwards who have the tough task of knocking one past him.

The 32-year-old keeper tends to have a go at each other at times, Schmeichel delivers his