

Sport

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-77

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm.

Sept 5, '97

1 The century Saurav Ganguly hit against Sri Lanka in the second one-day match was his

First Second Third

2 Who clinched the Pilot Pen tennis title?

Goran Rafer Yevgeny

3 Who holds the 800m world record?

Reynolds Morelli Kipketer

4 Who won the 12th schools chess tournament?

Parag Bobby Ratul

5 Who lifted the Pioneer Division soccer league title?

St Russell Surjita Dilkusha

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Abahani's Uzbek forward Anatoly Matveyev (R) loses the ball to a sliding tackle from an unidentified Old Benedictines defender during their Asian Cup Winners' Cup first round first-leg clash at the Mirpur Stadium.

— Star photo

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— Star photo



Abahani Krira Chakra roughed up the Old Benedictines of Sri Lanka with a 5-0 thrashing in their first leg match of the 8th Asian Cup Winners' Cup at the flood-lit Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

But the outcome had hardly reflected the course of the lopsided affair where the local giants could have run away with a more flattering margin victory against the lowly-rated tourists, who virtually danced to the tune of the sky blues throughout the match.

Striker Maksudul Amin Rana opened the floodgate in the fifth minute shooting home from close and then celebrated his first international goal with another in the 32nd minute while Matveyev Anatoly, one of the two fresh Uzbek recruits of Abahani, added the third one minute later to enable the Abahani taking an unassailable 3-0 lead at the break.

Six minutes into the second half Matveyev's compatriot Halilun Rifat then came up with a thunderous right-footer past Benedictine custodian Nassar, whose nervous presence under the bar compelled the beleaguered visitors gulp down yet another goal 12 minutes from the final whistle when he let loose a free shot from substitute Liton.

The misery of the visitors compounded when their striker

Sports Reporter

Prasanna got the marching order in the 53rd minute. A hot tempered Prasanna was penalised for abusing Indian referee Andrews.

The Sri Lankan FC champions, oblivious of their own strength, had promised to win in a pre-match interview. But at the end of the day, they seemed to learn the reality in the most punishing way.

Right from the word go, the popular Dhamondi outfit got into its usual stride against the pathetic presence of Benedictines. With the inclusion of two Uzbek booters, who made their Dhaka football debut last evening, the star-studded Abahani never looked behind once Rana broke the evening's duck with a deflection off a Rifat pile-driver from the edge of the box.

The nimble striker then broke open an off-side trap to race down the middle before slotting the balls home past an onrushing Benedictine custodian Nassar. He then went on to set Matveyev up for the third goal with an imaginative cross from the right.

But it was Rifat, who struck the gem of a goal much to the delight of a strong 10,000 supporters at the big bowl.

On the other hand Benedictines, wilting under ceaseless assaults, resorted to a very negative approach to stymie the hostile hosts. Especially, in the second half, their huffing and puffing players exercised raw tackles to keep the awe-inspir-

ing opponents at bay. Surprisingly, the Indian referee overlooked the awful display, prompting Abahani to make three quick changes in a bid to avoid any injury to their key players.

"I have every respect to my opponents. But they should concentrate more on football rather than those ugly tackles", said a furious Romanian coach of Abahani Constantine Cernaiu.

"I'm happy to see the way my boys has played," said the Romanian who took over only a few days back.

On the other hand his Sri Lankan counterpart Sooriya came up with a lame excuse for the debacle, claiming the first goal was an off-side.

The first goal made all the difference", said Sooriya in a post-match interview. But he was prompt enough to add that Abahani won as a better side.

"We will put up a better fight in the next match", said Sooriya whose team will play their return leg match at the same venue tomorrow.

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Biplob, Sohel Reza, Sohel al Masum, Partha, Kingshuk, Prodip, Rifat (Sentul, Jahangir (Liton), Barua, Anatoly (Iiton), Amin Rana.

OLD BENEDICTINES: Nasar, Christopher, Ravikumar, Chandika, Nathar, Prasanna, Kishano (Kumar), Silva, Augustin, Sampa (Kumara), Prasad.

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The 26th-ranked American, who has struggled with a "dead arm" injury this summer, spoke confidently after a long spirited practice session at the National Tennis Centre Friday in which he never held back on a shot, boomerang serves and swinging out on his groundstrokes against Briton Tim Henman.

Explaining his upbeat mood, Courier told Reuters: "I know that when I'm healthy and ready to go I can do some serious damage in this tournament."

This year, Courier has won two tournaments and is a perfect 3-0 in Davis Cup matches. But he has also lost eight first-round matches, including at the French Open and Wimbledon.

Courier begins this Open unseeded for the first time since 1990 and with a difficult first-round match against former top 10 player Todd Martin, who is making his return from an elbow injury.

Courier's most recent woes can be traced to the "dead arm" injury he suffered at Wimbledon and aggravated in winning at Los Angeles last month. "I haven't been healthy all summer," he said.

Since beating Thomas Enqvist of Sweden in the Los Angeles final, Courier has not won a match, making first-round exits at the Canadian Open, Cincinnati and New Haven 10 days ago.

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