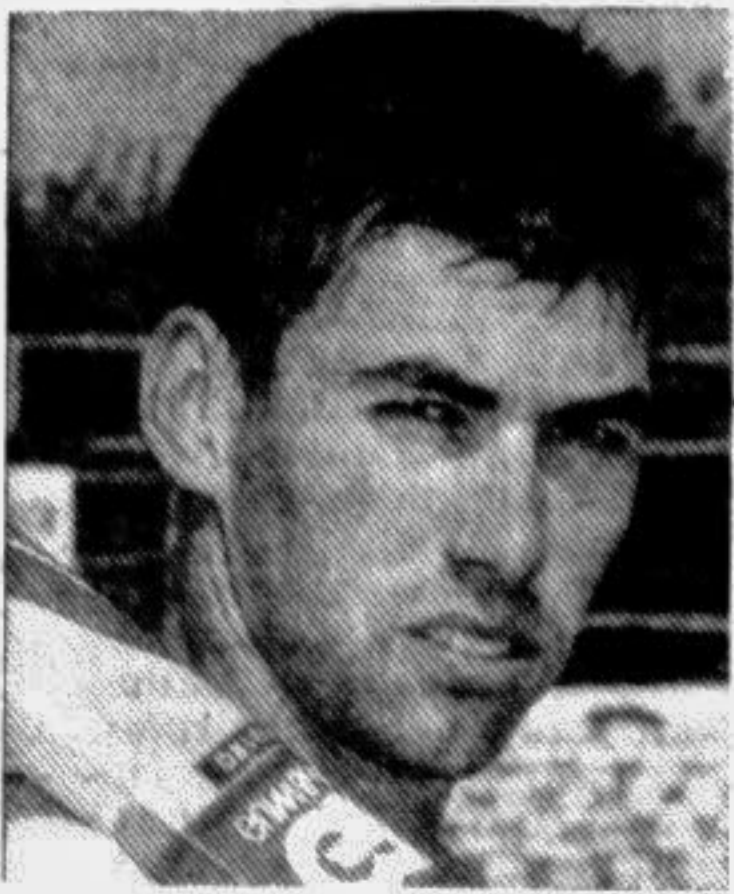


Column One SPORTS TALK



Stephen Fleming (New Zealand cricket captain) "All the way through we've under-achieved and that is an alarming aspect."

Roost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-85

TICK THE CORRECT ANSWERS

Competition closes at 8 pm on Dec 26, 1997

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options (A, B, C).

NAME

CLASS ROLL NO.

SCHOOL ADDRESS

PHONE: (IF ANY)

EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Officers' Club bridge today

Officers' Club duplicate pairs bridge competition on the occasion of the Victory Day will now be held today at 6 pm, reports UNB.

BCB Eleven finish atop

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board Eleven emerged group champions in the first round of the All-Bengal sub-junior cricket tournament with an all-win record yesterday.

In their last Group X match played at the Dada Bhai ground in Shilliguri, West Bengal, BCB Eleven handed local Agragamee Cricket Coaching Centre a huge 113-run defeat.

Electing to bat, the visitors

Bodybuilding

The pre-judging round of the 17th national and third veterans bodybuilding championship began yesterday at the National Sports Council gymnasium, reports UNB.

Some 150 bodybuilders from different clubs and organisations took part in the first phase of the two-day meet.

The final round will be held today at the WAPDA Bhaban auditorium.

President of the Bangladesh Bodybuilding Federation and former IGP Azizur Rahman will be the chief guest in today's closing function.

Hertha astonish leaders

BONN, Dec 13: Hertha Berlin added some extra spice to the German league championship race on Friday when they handed leaders Kaiserslautern only their third defeat of the season, reports Reuters.

One week after beating reigning champions Bayern Munich 2-0 to move seven points clear at the top of the table, Kaiserslautern went down 2-0 in the German capital.

Second-placed Bayern have a chance to close the gap on the 1991 champions to four points if they can win at home to lowly Borussia Moenchengladbach today.

Hertha Berlin were promoted with Kaiserslautern to the First Division last May and were last only a few weeks ago.

But a goal in each half helped them tame the south-westerners and move up three places to seventh in the Bundesliga.

The Berlin club, who won two German titles in the 1930s

Jap karate coach due tomorrow

Sports Reporter

Japanese karate coach Sensei Ryuichi Tanaka will arrive in the capital tomorrow to witness the 4th Bangladesh shito-ryu karate and kick boxing championship which will be held from December 25 to 27.

During his stay in Dhaka, Tanaka will supervise a special training camp organised by Bangladesh Shito-Ryu Karate-do Association.

Goalkeepers not above the law

Michael Cockerill

The goalkeeper has a rare privilege in football: the use of his hands to keep the ball out of his goal, which would otherwise be virtually impossible. But it is a privilege that should not be abused.

It was never really foreseen for the goalkeeper to be the planner and initiator of attacks.

And neither was it ever intended for him to use his privilege of handling and holding the ball to delay the game and waste time for the advantage of his own team.

After all, football is essentially a game of skill, and there is no skill in simply standing there, holding the ball in one's hands — especially when the 'Laws of the Game' make special provision for protecting the goalkeeper's safety and allow the opposing players little or no chance of getting the ball away from him when he is holding it in his hands.

Time-wasting is one of the worst forms of unsporting behaviour, because it attempts to deny opponents a fair chance of using the full allotted time to use their skills to win the game.

As the FIFA general secretary has frequently said, spectators do not go to football matches simply to see the goalkeeper standing still with the ball in his hands and waiting for nothing in particular before playing it, they want to see real skills, passes, dribbles, tactical moves, shots-and-of course brilliant saves by the goalkeepers.

There would logically be ever less time for these attractions if time is consistently wasted with the ball in the hands of a stationary goalkeeper. So as soon as he has a clear and ample opportunity to do so, the goalie must, for the good of the game, get it back into normal running play as quickly as possible.

GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE

Goalkeepers have of course always tried different tactics (or these have been devised for them by their coaches) to exploit the handling privilege in order to use up time. The International Football Association board, as the rule-makers of football, have repeatedly tried to counteract this, and it has resulted in a kind of running battle, or game of cat and mouse, between the board and the goalkeepers over the years.

It was the turn of the rule-

makers to react, which they did by saying that if the goalkeeper held the ball in his hands and then put it on the ground, he could not touch it again with his hands unless it was played by another player, of either team, outside his own penalty area. That meant that goalkeepers now risked having their short passes to defenders intercepted by alert opposing forwards.

But it did not stop some goalkeepers abusing the basic privilege of handling the ball, as they developed a new tactic: that of parrying the ball instead of catching it cleanly, even when they could have done so. They would merely pat the ball down to the ground with their hands, then take their time dribbling it to the edge of their penalty area before finally picking it up and holding it in the true sense of the term. Of course the goalie could always be challenged by an opponent, but he would react by quickly picking the ball up, thus limiting the effectiveness of such a challenge.

So the Board came up with an anti-parrying rule, saying that such deliberate parrying for the purpose of evading the Law was to be regarded also as holding the ball. That effectively put an end to that tactic.

But still the goalkeepers continued to defy the aim of the rule-makers to prevent time-wasting, now by use of the infamous back pass. Defenders would pass back to the goalkeeper, sometimes even from the halfway line, simply to exploit his special privilege of being able to pick the ball up with his hands and stifle all movement of the game. This frustratingly negative tactic was difficult to prevent for many years, and struck a very sour note in the minds of all those who loved the game for its real spirit of skill and attack.

THE BOARD HITS BACK

The Board hit back by declaring that if the goalkeeper held the ball with his hands and then put it on the ground, he would not be allowed to touch it again with his hands until it had been touched by another player.

The goalkeepers responded by holding the ball and then throwing it to a nearest defender, sometimes only a metre or two away, who would pass it back to the goalie, who would repeat the whole process all over again... and again. Another way of wasting time, and against the spirit of the FIFA ruling.

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THE BACK-PASS REVOLUTION

Then came the most potent salvo yet from the Board: the so-called back-pass rule. In 1992, it was ruled that if a player deliberately kicked the ball with his feet for his goalkeeper and the latter touched it with his hands or arms, there

would be an indirect free-kick against him. Heading the ball, playing it with the knee, thigh or chest were still permitted, as it was felt that such situations, deprived of the accuracy of a pass with feet, might create a chance of the opposing forward stealing a wayward back pass to their advantage.

Within a matter of days of this revolutionary new rule being introduced, the coaches hit back and there were some absurd attempts to circumvent the Law: players used their feet to flick the ball from the ground into the air in order to head it back to their goalkeeper, or would take a free-kick by kneeling down and passing, the ball back with their knees...

Within days, FIFA responded by making clear that any player thus deliberately negating the spirit of the new rule would be likely to be cautioned for unsporting behaviour and punished by an indirect free-kick.

This year, after long debate, it was decided to extend the successful back-pass rule by applying it also to throw-ins from defenders to their own goalkeeper, but the urge to extend it to all back-passes (with the head, thigh, chest, etc) was resisted.

But the battle continues, with an important new element. From July 1, referees have been given mandatory instructions not to permit the goalkeeper to take more than four steps while holding the ball as stipulated in Law 12, and if the goalie holds the ball for more than five or six seconds the referee must adjudge this as time-wasting and award an indirect free-kick against him.

NO CONSPIRACY

Has the International Football Association Board fired the definitive shot across the bows of the goalkeepers in this intriguing battle against time-wasting? Or are the goalies and their coaches about to devise their latest riposte? In either case, FIFA has always insisted that there is no deliberate conspiracy against goalkeepers as such — merely the continuing desire to keep football as fluid, as skillful and thus as attractive as possible. Source: FIFA Magazine

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