

Lara savours success

LONDON, May 15: Derbyshire crashed to an innings defeat inside two days against Warwickshire in the county championship at the Racecourse Ground on Thursday...

Derbyshire never came to terms with the Warwickshire seam attack and, after being bowled out for 98 on the first day, fared little better second time round — surrendering at 173 all out...

Warwickshire hammered 332 all out with Graeme Welch (54) and Tony Frost (33) both helping to boost the total and hand West Indian Brian Lara his first championship win as captain...

Elsewhere, ex-England captain Mike Atherton set about restoring his name on the England Test selectors' short-list by battling his way to a century for Lancashire against Kent at Canterbury...

Atherton hit 152 from 311 balls as he played the support role, first to Andrew Flintoff (42) and then Mike Watkinson (87) to help Lancashire towards 419 for eight against Kent...

Wicketkeeper Warren Hegg was unbeaten on 51 at stumps, as Lancashire sought to bury Kent, who were bowled out for 186 Wednesday...

Ben Smith was Thursday's other century maker. He scored an unbeaten 121 off 211 balls as Leicestershire took charge of their match with Gloucestershire at Bristol...

Gloucestershire, bowled out for just 134 in their first innings, were reduced to 16 for three early on, before captain Mark Alleyne (56) and Matt Windows (38) put on 112 for the fourth wicket...

Gloucestershire, though, and Gloucestershire subsided to a perilous 146 for six, still 71 short of making the visitors bat again...

Kapil puts his war-paint on!

NEW DELHI, May 15: Indian legend Kapil Dev Thursday launched a crusade to oust cricket officials in his home state of Haryana, saying they were "corrupt and uncaring"...

Kapil said the current leaders of the Haryana Cricket Association (HCA) had made a mockery of the game in the state...

"They make pots of money, but care a damn for the welfare of cricketers in Haryana," Kapil said. "I will not rest till they are removed from office..."

His fire is directed in particular against Ranbir Singh, a former secretary of the Indian cricket board who has been running the HCA for the past two decades...

"The HCA has become Ranbir's personal property. He does as he pleases, there is no one to question him about finances etc.," Kapil said...

Present and former Test stars hailing from Haryana, such as current vice-captain Ajay Jadeja, Ashok Malhotra, Chetan Sharma and Vijay Yadav, have strongly supported Kapil's campaign...

"Only a person of Kapil's stature can bring about a change," Jadeja said, adding that 10 of the 16 affiliate units of the HCA were behind him...

Kapil, a successful businessman since retiring from the game in 1994, said he was not averse to taking over the administration of the HCA if "I can be of any help..."

Kapil also heads a special committee of the Indian cricket board which supervises the preparations of wickets and outfield at various Test centres around the country...

Ranbir Singh, son of Haryana Chief Minister Bansi Lal, denied Kapil's charges, saying the HCA functioned in a democratic and transparent manner...

Lothar aims to lift German Cup

BERLIN, May 15: Lothar Matthaus is dreaming of ending one of the most memorable weeks of his prolific career by helping Bayern Munich lift the German cup for the first time in 12 years, reports Reuters...

The veteran striker, who was on the pitch when Bayern last put their hands on the trophy with a 5-2 win over VfB Stuttgart in 1986, will marshal the Bavarians' defence in Saturday's final against MSV Duisburg...

The 37-year-old Matthaus, recalled by Germany head coach Bert Vogts last Monday to play in his fifth World Cup final in France next month, sounded confident that Bayern would end a disappointing season on a high note...

As Bayern will play in the Champions' League next season, Duisburg will get a ticket to the Cup Winners' Cup whatever the outcome of the game at Berlin's Olympic Stadium...

Likely teams: Bayern Munich: Oliver Kahn, Lothar Matthaus, Markus Babbel, Thomas Helmer, Dietmar Hamann, Thorsten Fink, Christian Nerlinger, Michael Tarnat, Bixente Lizarazu, Mehmet Scholl, Giovanni Elber...

MSV Duisburg: Thomas Gill, Thomas Vana, Torsten Wohler, Slobodan Koml Jenovic, Carsten Wolters, Stig Toefting, Michael Zeyer, Thomas Hatto, Dietmar Hirsch, Uwe Spies, Bachirou Salou...

The USA 1994 World Cup

The best team won

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

Despite a goalless final, this was a successful World Cup, well organised by the Americans, who justified FIFA's faith in them. It was blessed with record crowds (average 68,529), impeccably behaved, and played for the most part in the best of spirits...

The World Cup was decided on penalties for the first time, and Roberto Baggio's miss that gave Brazil victory was a sad climax to what had been a thrilling tournament deservedly won by the best team...

The format for the finals was retained with the exception that in the first round groups a win would be worth three points instead of two. FIFA, still not recovered from the criticism, introduced a number of late instructions to referees for interpreting the laws...

The two most contentious rulings on interpretation involved making the "tackle from behind" a red-card offence and giving attacking players more advantage in off-side situations. Both new interpretations needed more clarification and testing before being put into practice fairly...

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With no team of their own in the finals, British allegiance was switched to the Irish team, coached by Jack Charlton. They brought off the first sensation of the finals when Ray Houghton's spectacular goal gave team 1-0 victory over the mighty Italians...

But the startling individual performance of the tournament was supplied by Valencia's Russian star Oleg Salenko. Without an international goal to his credit before the finals, he scored five — a World Cup record — as Russians beat Cameroon 6-1 in a vain effort to qualify for the next round of the competition...

In the last sixteen Ireland could not recover from their defensive lapses against Holland. Brazil, though, thanks to Bebeto, while Nigeria were on the verge of taking a nighty scalp, after Italy's Zola had been sent off. They led until the 88th minute, when Roberto Baggio finally came alive, equalised and scored the winner from the spot in the extra time...

In the quarter-finals Bulgaria chalked up a famous triumph over holders Germany. Romania, however, went out against Sweden in penalties after a dramatic game. Italy had beaten Spain 2-1 and Holland lost a five-goal thriller to Brazil...

The defensive qualities of both sides triumphed in the final. Italy brought back Baresi, three weeks after a key-hole surgery to his knee, and the veteran was magnificent. So, too, was Maldini. Brazil's central defensive pair, Aldair and Marcio Santos were outstanding. A cameo performance from young substitute Viola in the second period of extra-time injected some spice in the game...

But the match finished goalless and for the first, and hopefully for the last, time a world cup final had to be decided on penalties. Brazil's captain Dunga shot his team into lead before, finally, Baggio lifted his kick over the goal to give Brazil victory...



Brazil's captain Dunga celebrates victory in time-honoured fashion. —Star file photo

FINAL SCORE

Table with football scores for Group A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and Final. Includes teams like Switzerland, Colombia, Mexico, USA, etc.

In the end the best side won despite a 120-minute deadlock. Brazil were a joy to watch and they lifted the World Cup for the fourth time. —Source: Football Chronicle.

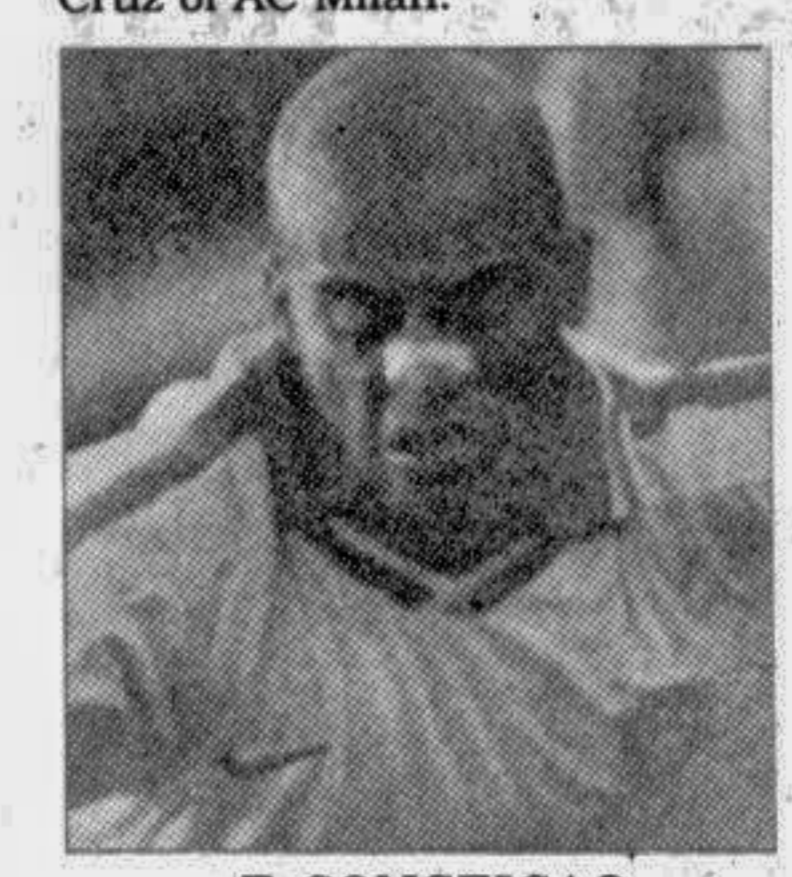
Injury cancels Conceicao

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 15: Midfielder Flavio Conceicao became the second Brazilian player to see his World Cup dreams shattered on Thursday when he was dropped from the World Cup squad because of injury, reports Reuters...

Coach Mario Zagallo said the Deportivo Coruna player would be replaced by uncapped Ze Carlos of Sao Paulo, who until last year was an unknown player with a small club in the Second Division of a regional league...

Let's be objective. (Team doctor) Lidio Toledo has spoken to the player and the Deportivo Coruna doctor and it has been decided to drop him from the squad," Zagallo said. "Tomorrow, Lidio will give more details of the injury. Ze Carlos will take his place..."

Flavio Conceicao, who has been out of action for a month because of a knee injury, suffered the same fate as Marcio Santos just 24 hours before him. Central defender Santos was



F CONCEICAO

Flavio Conceicao, 23, has been a regular for Brazil over the last two years, winning 21 full international caps and scoring three goals, and was in the team which won the Copa America in Bolivia last year. He also played in the Atlanta

FA Cup final today

LONDON, May 15: Alan Shearer and complicity appear the only obstacles to Arsenal winning Saturday's FA Cup final against Newcastle United and the second 'double' in their 112-year history, reports Reuters...

Arsenal's blend of foreign attacking guile and stout English defence has swept all before it in 1998 while Newcastle, after a torrid season on and off the pitch, spent the last weeks of the season fighting relegation...

London bookmakers make Arsenal 1-2 favourites to win the biggest event in English soccer, but cup final history is littered with upsets...

Arsenal, who won the cup in 1993, outclassed Newcastle 3-1 in their last meeting on their way to their first league title since 1991...

The two clubs have met twice before in the final and Newcastle won both times, in 1932 and 1952. Arsenal are appearing in their 13th final having won the cups 6 times, and Newcastle in their 12th, also winning six...

Likely teams: Arsenal: David Seaman, Lee Dixon, Martin Keown, Tony Adams (captain), Nigel Winterburn, Ray Parlour, Emanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira, Marc Overmars, Dennis Bergkamp (Ian Wright), Nicolas Anelka...

Newcastle United: Shay Given, Stuart Pearce, Philippe Albert, Niko Dabizas, Warren Barton, Alessandro Pistone, Steve Watson, Robert Lee (captain), David Batty, Gary Speed, Alan Shearer...

Batistuta bombs Bosnia

CORDOBA, Argentina, May 15: A hatrick and an assist by Fiorentina striker Gabriel Batistuta helped Argentina trounce Bosnia 5-0 Thursday in a pre-World Cup tuneup match, reports AP...

Batistuta opened the scoring in the fifth minute and raised it to 2-0 in the 24th. Javier Zanetti scored in the 55th on a center by Batistuta. Ariel Ortega made it 4-0 in the 58th and Batistuta scored again in the 79th...

Bosnia were a weak sparring partner for the twice-world champions, who dominated the game at will to the delight of 45,000 fans at this provincial capital 700 kilometres (435 miles) northwest of Buenos Aires...

Argentina, with a 3-1 record in their tuneup series, is scheduled to face Chile on May 19 and South Africa on May 25...

Brown leaves no room for McCoist

GLASGOW, Scotland, May 15: Veteran Rangers striker Ally McCoist looks like missing the World Cup having been omitted from Scotland's squad for final warmup games against Colombia and the United States, reports AP...

Coach Craig Brown said Wednesday the 22 he named for the May 23 and 30 games will, barring late injuries, be the players he take to France. Scotland open the June 10-July 12, 32-team championship against holders Brazil...

Newly-crowned Scottish champions Celtic have seven players in the squad while Rangers, who won the title the previous nine years, has only two...

That may be because Rangers have relied heavily on players imported from overseas. But, even though 35-year-old McCoist has spent much of the season on Rangers' substitutes' bench, his omission is something of a surprise because Scotland has a dire goalscoring record and his experience may have been an asset...

Brown has included five front line strikers including Celtic's Simon Donnelly, and Darren Jackson, Scott Booth of Borussia Dortmund, Rangers Gordon Durie and Kevin Gallacher of Blackburn, who is likely to be the Scots' best hope for finding the target...

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Andy Goram (Rangers), Jim Leighton (Aberdeen), Neil Sullivan (Wimbledon). Defenders: Tommy Boyd (Celtic), Colin Calderwood (Tottenham), Christian Dailly (Derby), Matt Elliott (Leicester), Colin Hendry (Blackburn), David Weir (Hearts), Derek Whyte (Aberdeen), Tosh McKinlay (Celtic).

Midfielders: Craig Burley (Celtic), John Collins (Monaco), Scott Gemmill (Nottingham Forest), Paul Lambert (Celtic), Billy McKinlay (Blackburn), Jackie McNamara (Celtic). Forwards: Scott Booth (Borussia Dortmund), Simon Donnelly (Celtic), Gordon Durie (Rangers), Kevin Gallacher (Blackburn), Darren Jackson (Celtic).

Heerensen books spot in Europe

ROTTERDAM, May 15: Heerensen came from behind to beat Twente Enschede 3-1 on Thursday in a unique Dutch Cup play-off for a place in next season's European Cup Winners' Cup, reports Reuters...

The play-off between the two losing semi-finalists was scarcely less dramatic than the teams who reached Sunday's final — champions Ajax Amsterdam and runners-up PSV Eindhoven — have both qualified for the European Cup...

FRANCE '98 SIDELINES

UNDATED, May 15 (AP): It took Gianfranco Zola 18 seconds to win the Cup Winners' Cup for Chelsea...

It may take him longer to persuade Italian coach Cesare Maldini to put him back on the World Cup squad...

"I'll be waiting for a phone call," Zola said after his 71st minute strike earned a 1-0 victory for Chelsea over Germany's VfB Stuttgart in Stockholm Wednesday night...

"But, if it doesn't come, I will accept it philosophically," the 32-year-old former Napoli and Parma striker said...

"He must have seen my performance. I can't do any more."

HOME SECRETARY'S CONCERN: British Home Secretary Jack Straw says a vast security operation will be in place during the World Cup. But he acknowledges that English hooligans will still be a major threat...

"The risk of violence is real," Straw said in an interview published in Friday's edition of the French newspaper Le Monde. "Hooliganism isn't finished. It will go on like any form of crime..."

Straw described the fear of travelling English soccer fans as "understandable," but said British police had recently got the upper hand, and now had the problem under control at home...

Straw said the relatively trouble-free Euro '96 tournament in England proved that progress had been made, but added that English fans were more likely to misbehave abroad...

"They believe the local police are less experienced and don't know them," he said.

JOHANSSON AFRICA'S CHOICE: The African Football Association has reaffirmed its intention to back Swede Lennart Johansson as candidate for FIFA's top seat in June elections. Johansson, head of the

Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) will face former FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter in the June 8 vote...

In an interview published in the Cameroon paper "Mutations" on Wednesday, African Football Federation president Issa Hyatou underlined Johansson's achievements in Europe and his cordial relationship with Africa...

It was thanks to UEFA's "determined support" that Africa won five places in the upcoming World Cup tournament, Hyatou said...

Hyatou also praised Johansson's campaign to make the organisation of the World Cup tournament on a rotating basis in member countries, thus giving Africa a chance to organise the event...

He wins, Johansson, 68, will replace FIFA's long-serving head, Brazilian Joao Havelange, who has been FIFA president for 24 years...

CASHING IN ON NAKATA!: Japan's midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata is so outraged a writer is making big bucks off an unauthorised biography, he is suing...

Lawsuits over publicity rights and unauthorised books are still rare in Japan, a harmony-loving society that tends to frown upon all litigation...

But Nakata, 21, who was named 1997 Asian-player-of-the-year this week, decided to take a stand, his agent Etsuko Tsugihara said Thursday...

The lawsuit, filed in Tokyo District Court in March when the book hit the stands, demands an unspecified amount of damages, she said...

Tsutomu Takabe, 48, the author and publisher of "Hidetoshi Nakata, the Man Who Led Japan to France," said he will fight the lawsuit but refused to comment further...

The book, which includes childhood photos and a poem Nakata wrote in school, is featured prominently at most local

bookstores. Court battles take a long time in Japan, making a ruling unlikely for another year or two...

FOWLER'S AGONY MOUNTS

After being ruled out of England's World Cup squad because of a knee injury, Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler now fears he may not play again in 1998...

The striker suffered knee cartilage damage in a collision with Everton's Norwegian keeper, Thomas Myhre, in February...

The injury sidelined him for the rest of the season and ended his chances of playing in the World Cup...

"There were some reports that he had visions of playing pre-season, but he certainly won't be playing before Christmas," said Liverpool physiotherapist Mark Leather. "That is the estimation at the moment..."

Dooley to skipper USA

NEW YORK, May 15: Thomas Dooley, who hardly spoke English when he joined the US soccer team six years ago, was picked Thursday to be the Americans' captain at this summer's World Cup, reports AP...

Dooley, who turned 37 Tuesday, is the oldest player on the team and the most experienced. He started playing professional soccer in Germany in 1985...

In a surprise Thursday, defender Alexi Lalas trimmed his flowing red hair, an attribute that's gained him considerable attention in the past five years. "I had nothing to do with him cutting his hair. It was his own decision," Sampson said. "Interesting decision on his part, but I had nothing to do with it..."

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98. Round 4. Win these breathtaking prizes!!! 1st Prize: Sanyo Refrigerator, 2nd Prize: PHILIPS 14" B/W TV, 3rd Prize: PHILIPS Personal Electronic Scale, 4th Prize: 4 dozen Philips Bulbs (5 prizes), 5th Prize: Caps & T-Shirts (25 prizes). All Prizes Courtesy: Transcom Electronics Ltd. Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets. Competition Information, Prizes and Rules. Information: The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98 is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer being held in France from June 10 to July 12, 1998...

Our regular Bridge Column "SIX NO TRUMPS" will henceforth be published every Friday. —Sports Editor.