Klinsmann at a loose end

NICE, France, June 19 (AFP): Germany's World Cup stars are in demand but the future of former Spurs star Juergen Klinsmann remains in doubt.

Two players who are on their way to pastures new are Bayern Munich's Dietmar Hamann and Thomas Helmer, but 33-yearold Klinsmann is still clubless after his brief stint at White Hart Lane.

Asked if there was any truth in reports linking him to Borussia Dortmund, Klinsmann insisted Thursday: "It's all stuff and nonsense, a return to the Bundesliga is out of the question.

Hamann is set for a multimillion-dollars move to Betis of Spain while central defender Helmer wants to return to former club Dortmund.

"They are interested, but nothing has been decided," said Hamann of his prospective transfer.

Bayern spokesman Markus Horwick said the Bavarians were waiting for an official approach.

Hamann would cost around nine million dollars, chicken feed for Betis, who have agreed to cough up around 35 million dollars for Sao Paulo's Brazilian star Denilson.

From triumph to tragedy

PARIS, June 19 (AFP): Welltravelled Carlos Alberto Perreira can now claim to have experienced both the high of World Cup joy and the depths of World Cup misery following Saudi Arabia's elimination from this 1998 event.

Coach Perreira, who led Brazil to the 1994 World Cup title, has now seen this most famous of sporting events from both ends of the spectrum.

In July 1994 in Pasadena, California, Perreira silenced his critics with a recordbreaking World Cup victory which sent the whole of Brazil into narty mood for months.

and, just low years on, the contribution of Perreira's Saudi Arabia to this first ever 32-nation finals will soon be forgotten following a 1-0 loss to Denmark and Thursday night's 4-0 thrashing by France.

True, me Saudis have a game left against South Africa in Bordeaux on Wednesday, but they have no chance of emulating their exploits in 1994 when they reached the second round.

To make matters worse, Perreira watched his team play most of the game against France with 10 men after defender Mohammed al-Khilaiwi was sent off in the 19th minute for a late challenge on Bayern Munich's Bixente Lizarazu.

However, Perreira, said he could not comment on his player's sending off because he was too far away from the incident.

"It looked like a very strict decision, but I couldn't really see. But that's they way it goes in football some times.

I think the result was a fair reflection of the difference between the two sides. It was clear it was going to be a tough game. Although we only had 10 players, we were holding our own at just 1-0 down for sometime.

"Later in the game we tried to make a few changes and suddenly everything just got worse and worse.

Parreira said their goal had been to reach the second round. "But that chance has gone now. France are a wonderful side. Anyone of their players can decide a game at any given time. I think they will go a long way in this championship."

Perreira's side may be out, but at least he jointly holds a World Cup record. He has coached four different national sides at a World Cup finals. He led Kuwait in 1982, United Arab Emirates in 1990, before world champions Brazil four years ago and this current Saudi squad.

Current Nigerian boss Bora Milutinovic shares that distinction - he led Mexico in 1986, Costa Richa in 1990 and USA in 1994.

THE SCORERS

PARIS, June 19 (Reuters): World Cup scorers after Thursday's matches:

Three goals: Marcelo Salas (Chile), Christian Vieri (Italy), Thierry Henry (France) Two goals: Luis Hernandez (Mexico).

One goal: Casar Sampaio (Brazil). John Collins (Scotland), Craig Burley (Scotland), Dan Eggen (Norway), Havard Flo (Norway). Moustafa Hadji (Morocco). Abdeljilil Hadda (Morocco), Roberto Baggio (Italy), Luigi di Biagio (Italy). Pierre Njanka (Cameroon), Toni Polster (Austria), Ivica Vastic (Austria), Marc Rieper (Denmark), Allan Nielsen (Denmark), Christophe Dugarry (France), David Trezeguet (France). Bixente Lizarazu (France), Fernado Hierro (Spain), Raul (Spain), Mutiu Adepoju (Nigeria), Garba Lawal (Nigeria). Sunday, Olisch (Nigeria), Ha Seok-ju (South Korea), Ricardo Pelaez (Mexico), Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina) Sinisa Mihajlovic (Yugoslavia), Mario Stanic (Croatia), Rober Prosinecki (Croatia). Davor Suker (Croatia), Robbie Earle (Jamaica), Alan Shearer (England), Paul Scholes (England), Adrian Ilie (Romania), Andy Moeller (Germany), Jeurgen Klinsmann (Germany), Benedict McCarthy

(South Africa). Penalties: Roberto Baggio (Italy) John Collins (Scotland). Own goals: Tommy Boyd (Scotland), Youssef Chippo (Morocco), Pierre Issa (South Africa).



SORRY WRONG BALL! David Trezeguet (L), the French striker kicks Saudi Arabia's Khamis Al-Owairan between the legs on June 18 at Saint Denis. - AFP photo

Croatia on a roll

NANTES, France, June 19 (AFP): World Cup newcomers Croatia have swaggered into France '98 with all the casual confidence of seasoned veter-

The Croatians aim to virtually seal their spot in the second round, and end Japanese interest in the tournament, when they face Japan in their second Group H match at the La Beaujoire Stadium here on Saturday.

The Croatians won their opener 3-1 against Jamaica and looked potent in attack despite the absence from the tournament of strikers Alen Boksic and Igoric Vitanovic.

They will probably be without another big name on Saturday with playmaker Zvonimir Boban expected to be ruled out by a calf muscle injury.

Such is the self-belief of this Croatian team, however, that they are able to put misfortune to one side and concentrate on

the job in hand. "We've got a very strong side," said striker Davor Suker. Utility player Mario Stanic was evenmore blunt. "We played a good opening game, but you

will see an even stronger Croatia against Japan," he predicted. The Croatians were only reaffiliated to FIFA in 1992, but the World Cup is a familiar

stage for two of their stars. Robert Jarni and Robert Prosinecki both played for the old Yugoslavia in the 1994 finals in the United States and

LYON, June 19 (Reuters): Iran

Despite the media's best ef-

will unveil a surprise for their

United States rivals in Sun-

day's World Cup match __ even

forts to depict the game as a po-

litical showdown, both teams

have insisted that the only

thing at stake is a possible pas-

Against a backdrop of tenta-

tive rapprochement between the

two political foes, Iran coach

Jalal Talebi was asked whether

there would be any sporting ex-

believe we'll do something ex-

tra," he said but refused to elab-

"I believe more than that, I

"Let me surprise you," he

Despite fielding an endless

"We are playing against the

Qualifying for the World Cup

tide of political questions in the

build-up to Sunday's game.

Talebi insists on keeping the

people, we are not playing

against the government," he

finals after an absence of 20

years was a victory in itself, he

said and added: "We've come

here to get more experience, to

show everybody that we can

play and that we have talented

He also believed there were

"They don't have enough ex-

Talebi, a coach for 25 years,

similarities between the US and

perience and we don't have

only took charge of the team

last month when his Croatian

predecessor Tomislav Ivic was

sacked after a run of poor re-

to impose more defensive 4-4-2

tactics on the team, which he

that. We changed the system to

3-5-2, which the player are

more familiar with. I tried to

make them believe in them-

said was against their nature.

He criticised lvic for trying

"The players did not accept

enough experience," he said.

focus on soccer, not politics.

sage to the second round.

changes before the match.

orate.

players.

Iran team.

before a ball is kicked.

seven squad members in all have caps for two countries after switching their allegiance from Yugoslavia to Croatia.

Prosinecki made history against Jamaica, when he became the first player to score for two different nations in the finals. Defender Igor Stimac said

there is a feeling in the Croatian camp that they can mount a serious threat to the big guns. "This Croatian team is full

of players who compete in the to leagues in Italy, Spain and Germany," he said, "We should have gone a lot further than the quarterfinals

in Euro 96, but than mask to a

bad referee we lost out to Ger-

many." Coach Miroslav Balazevic predicted before the tournament started that his team is capable of reaching the final four, and has said: "I don't think Jamaica and Japan will

be a threat. He was right about Jamaica, although the Japanese may prove more resilient at the

The Croatians will train at the La Beaujoire Stadium today afternoon, just 90 minutes after flying into Nautes from their

training base. "That worked for us last time, so we'll repeat the pat-

tern," the Coatians said. The main threat to Croatia is likely to come from 21-yearold Japanese playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata, who hopes

selves, get more confident, and

national caps as a player before

taking charge of Iran's Olympic

and youth teams, has coached

in the US, the United Arab Emi-

rates, Singapore and Indonesia.

accepted an offer from an Ira-

nian club but three months

later became technical adviser

to the national team before tak-

Talebi also learned some of

the ticks of the trade during a

spell at English club Chelsea in

1971 and from his friend Bora

Milutinovic, the present Nige-

ria coach who took Mexico to

the 1986 World Cup finals.

ing the job of head coach.

After returning to the US, he

Talebi, who earned 27 inter-

get more freedom on the pitch."

Iran plan Yankee upset

his performances in France will earn him a contract with a leading Spanish club after the finals. Barcelona and Espanyol are both reported to be having him watched.

The Bellmare Hiratsuka star was outstanding in Japan's opening 1-0 loss to Argentina but Japan have problems with the form of strikers Shoji Jo and Masashi Nakayama, who have scored just one goal between them in six internation-

Nakayama is without a goal since April Fools' Day. Japanese coach Takeshi Okada has vowed his World Cup rookies will concentrate on

their own play, rather than worry about stopping Croatia. "It is important to play football our way, no matter who will play on the opposite side," Okada said. "Croatia are individually super and can go a long way in the this tournament.

"We have come together in our awareness toward Croatia and done all we should do," he added, without elaborating what changes he plans. Insiders believe he may call-

18-year-old midfielder Shinji Ono to give the team more attacking punch. For now, results are more

important than style for the 2002 World Cup co-hosts if they are not to catch an early flight home.

'We want to win, no matter how," said Okada, "It won't be easy, but we will do our best."

RESULTS UPDATE

Brazil 2

Italy 2

Morocca 2

Cameroon 1

S Arabia 0

France 3

Holland 0

S Korea 1

Jamaica 1

Yugoslavia

Argentina 1

Germany 2

Romania 1

England 2

Scotland 1

Brazil 3

Chile 1

Italy 3

S Africa

France 4

Spain 2

Paraguay 0

Scotland 1

Norway 2

Austria 1

Chile 2

Denmark 1

S Africa 0

Bulgana 0

Belgium 0

Mexico 3

Nigena 3

Croatia 3

Iran 0

Japan 0

USA 0

Colombia 0

Tunisia 0

Norway 1

Austria 1

Morocco 0

Cameroon 0

Denmark 1

S Arabia 0

themselves in shop window MARSEILLE, June 19 (AFP)

Internet): South Korea's top players see the high-profile World Cup clash against Holland on Saturday as a way of securing a lucrative contract with a European team.

Only two players, Strasbourg's Seo Jung-Won and Noh Jung-Yun of NAC Breda in Holland, play in Europe while three others are with Japanese clubs. Korean players are accused

of being notoriously insular but the mood is changing and Seo has urged his teammates to put themselves in the shop window with good performances against Bergkamp and Co.

"I have adapted quickly to the situation with Strasbourg in France and have scored a few goals for the team," said midfielder Seo, who has recovered from the measles and will start against Holland.

Japanese travel Dunga says sorry agents set to

OZOIR-LA-FERRIERE. France, June 19 (AP): After he bullied, coaxed and inspired Brazil to victory in the 1994 World Cup, captain Dunga achieved a rare consensus as the team's unquestioned leader.

But now, some players feel he's going too far. While still team captain, Dunga has drawn criticism for his domineering manner and aggressive atti-tudes on the field.

The unrest nearly boiled

DUNGA

Leading 1-0. Brazil faced a

dangerous free kick near their

penalty area. Dunga wasn't sat-

isfied with the way Bebeto set up

in the wall and shouted at him.

Bebeto answered back, and

Leonardo had to step in front of

What's the matter with you?"

Brazil held on to win, but the

"What's the matter, man?

The kick hit the wall and

"He was hot-headed and so

a suddenly livid Dunga.

incident wasn't forgotten.

Leonardo shouted.

Cup organising committee (CFO) and the international governing body FIFA, the Tokyo Shimbun said. over during Brazil's 3-0 victory A demand for damages is likely, the Tokyo daily said. A huge ticket shortfall has

forced Japanese travel agents to cancel many trips to France. Japanese fans are reportedly still short of thousands of tickets, for the team's next two matches against Croatia and

sue organisers

ternet): Japanese travel agen-

cies are preparing a civil law-

suit against the French organ-

isers of the World Cup finals and FIFA over the fiasco that

left thousands of Japan fans

without tickets, a report said

Several agencies are considering suing the French World

Friday.

TOKYO, June 19 (AFP/ In-

Jamaica. French police probing a World Cup tickets scam opened formal proceedings on Wednes-day against the managing direc-tor and a consultant for ISL France, a firm linked to FIFA's World Cup marketing partner ISL Worldwide.

The two men, ISL France chief Marc Loison and Gilles Favard, 46, a consultant for the company, face charges of fraud and misuse of corporate funds, judicial sources said.

Favard is accused of promis- over Morocco on Tuesday. ing tickets he did not have to Japanese tour operators at ten times the official price.

Loison is suspected of selling 500 tickets, destined for corporate clients, for personal gain out of a batch of 6,000 bought by ISL Worldwide from the French World Cup organising commit-

ISL France is an independent firm in which ISL Worldwide has a non-executive 49 percent stake.

Four Japanese travel agencies and one French firm had accused ISL France of failing to provide World Cup tickets paid for in advance for some 15,000 Japanese customers and as many Dutch and Belgians.

Matthaeus hopeful

NICE, France, June 19 (AP): Lothar Matthaeus still hopes to get that record — his 22nd World Cup match.

It would make Matthaeus along the player with most World Cup matches. Right now, the 37-year-old German veteran, who is in his fifth World Cup, shares that honour with three others - Uwe Seeler of Germany. Wladyslaw Zmuda of Poland and Diego Maradona of Argentina. All four have played 21 World Cup matches.

But to set the record, Matthaeus must play. Captain of Germany's 1990 victorious team, Matthaeus was a late addition to Germany's current roster and has to reconcile himself with sitting on the bench.

"My personal goal naturally is to play at this World Cup," Matthaeus said in an interview published Thursday with the German soccer magazine Kicker.

"The coach surely didn't bring me here to carry suit cases. He has confidence in me. And the fans also have confidence in me," Matthaeus said.

Koreans put

BORDEAUX, France, June 19 (AFP): Belgian veterans Enzo Scifo and Franky Van Der Elst. both appearing in their fourth World Cup finals, are being asked to supply the creative spark on Saturday against Mexico that was so obviously lacking in their goalless draw with Holland.

Belgium can not afford to lose to Mexico, who beat 10man South Korea 3-1 a week ago, as they will then have to hope the Mexican's beat the Dutch in the final round of Group E matches - or face an in glorious exit from the tourna-

The 32-year-old Scifo and Van Der Elst, who are the last two survivors of the Belgium side who were beaten by Diego Maradona — inspired Argentina in the 1986 semifinals, can at least add a bit of genuine class to a side that singularly lacked it against their arch-rivals the Dutch last Saturday.

France's speedy striker Thierry

Henry has emerged as one of the

most exciting young players at

the World Cup at a time when the hosts find their attacking

options limited by injury and

against Saudi Arabia on Thurs-

day night as France won 4-0 to

sweep into the last 16. The

Monaco player had scored his

first goal for France in their

opening game against South

pecially timely as French

striker Christophe Dugarry has

a hamstring injury that will

probably rule him out for at

least two weeks, while play-

maker Zinedine Zidane faces

suspension after he was sent off

to be the leading scorer but that

the team wins. There are times

when it seems easy to score

goals and this is one of them. So

much the better for the team,"

"The important thing is not

His goal scoring touch is es-

Henry, 20, scored twice

suspension.

Africa last week.

against the Saudis.

Both 37-year-old Van Der Elst, who on Tuesday announced he would retire after the World Cup, and Scifo have been recalled to the international scene by coach George Leekens — although Scifo had to endure a period in the wilderness under him.

The double selection by Leekens, who had sacked Scilo as captain and dropped him from the squad earlier in the year, confirmed the impression that the Belgians would be a more aggressive outfit against the other two teams in their group, the other being South Korea

Van Der Elst, who is a slight worry with a painful thigh picked up in training on Wednesday, is finding the going harder these day's but is still a forceful presence in midfield. Scifo. Belgian-born out with a temperament and dark looks to go with his Sicilian ancestry, is also lacking his old pace but still has the eye for the decisive

Henry, who grew up idolising

US sprinter Carl Lewis, is him-

self blessed with blistering

pace. Playing wide on the right.

he has the speed to terrorise de-

fences and scupper the carefully

laid defensive plans of World

football playing on the concrete

parade outside his parents' flat

in a Parisian satellite town not

far from the newly built Stade

friend were all at Thursday's

game but his mother stayed

away, preferring not to watch

for fear of seeing her boy taking

felt he was playing the best

football of his career. "I think

Henry was asked whether he

His brother, father and girl-

Cup coaches.

De France.

heavy knocks.

so," he replied.

Thierry: Man of

the moment

"Scifo has come along a lot both mentally and physically. He has really impressed me in training," Leekens said. I need someone creative in

pass and for goal.

midfield who can deliver the killer final pass," he added.

It gives Scifo an opportunity to score the goal that will take him past Jan Ceulemans, who played alongside him in 1986 and 1990, as Belgium's leading scorer in World Cup football.

Leekens, who guided his side here after a play-off win over the Republic of Ireland, has also recalled stopper Gordan Vidovic, who was a unfit for the Dutch match, while Erik Deflandre, who replaced the experienced Bertrand Crasson after just 22 minutes last Saturday.

Meanwhile, the previously underfire Mexican coach Manuel Lapuente displayed his new found confidence, following the victory over the South Koreans and experimented with a three pronged strikeforce during the week's training. Lapuente's optimism that

retains his place.

Belgium will try and stifle his side as they did the Dutch may well prove to be misplaced given that Deflandre and Scifo are

Lapuente fielded a 4-3-3 attacking formation in closeddoor practice with Franciso Palencia fielded as attacking pointmen, and midfielder Jaime Ordiales, substituted in the Korea game, losing his place.

Should Lapuente, who came

We can go on who win World

under fire in the lead-up to the Henry made his debut for finals with a series of uninspir-Monaco at the age of 17 and his ing friendly results, opt to use performances, especially in Eu-Palencia. He will line up alongropean competitions, have side Luis 'El Matador' Hernancaught the eye of a number of dez, who scored twice against the biggest clubs across the conthe Koreans, and last Saturtinent.
The Frenchman learned his day's other goalscorer Ricardo Velaez.

> Cup." Velaez said after the match. . Certainly the Belgians will

have their work cut out to breakdown the ever reliable Claudio Suarez, winner of over 100 caps, and fellow veterans Marcelino Bernal, Luis Garciaand, Alberto Garciaaspe, who were all part of the side that were unlucky to be beaten by Bulgaria on penalties in the second round in 1994.



HAIL HENRY: France's two-goal hero Thierry Henry (C) threatens the Saudi Arab post during their Group C encounter at Saint Denis on June 18. - AFP photo

was I, and things happened," Bebeto said after practice Thursday as he fielded question after question about the inci-"He came up later and hugged

me," Bebeto said. "I know him. He's always been like this. Dunga said the incident had

blown over. "I apologised to Bebeto on the field. He accepted, and it's over," he told reporters after practice Thursday.

Leonardo, suddenly projected into the role of peacemaker and new team leader, also sought to play down the confrontation.

"No matter how big the ar-gument was on the field, this won't destabilize the group," he said. "We've known Dunga for many years. This is part of this spirit.

Ronaldo admitted he bridles at bossing but stopped short of criticising his captain.

"I don't like people shouting or gesturing at me, but I try to understand Dunga," he said. Others were less quick to pardon.

"Dunga was too harsh," Bellini, captain of Brazil's 1958 World Cup champions, said in an interview on the Internet. "He seems more nervous than in other Cups. This is the third and almost

certainly last Cup for the 34-

year-old midfielder of Japan's Jubilo Iwata. In victory and defeat, he has been a symbol of the Brazilian team, his buzz-cut hair a reflection of his commando image. In 1990, coach Sebastiao

Lazaroni hailed the tough, scrappy style of his midfield bulldog. He announced the dawning of the "Dunga Era" and said Brazil's team would be "Dunga and 10 more."

That didn't sit well with many Brazilians, who preferred

a ball artist such as Careca, Bebeto or Romario as a symbol for the team. It sounded even worse when Brazil got knocked out early by

archrival Argentina, and the "Dunga era" became a code phrase for ugly, artless soccer. But if fans renounced him, coaches admired his courage, his leadership and, yes, his skills as offensive coordinator



BEBETO

turned to the national team in 1994, again a symbol of the dedication to wining a fourth Cup

Dunga says he hasn't changed through his career in Brazil, Germany, Italy and Japan. His experience gives him perspective, but he always knew what was important.

"For Brazil, we must try to win always," he said. "I know how much it hurts to lose and how joyful it is to win, so I want always to continue being a win-



NOTHING'S GOING RIGHT: Denmark's key inspiration Brian Laudrup looks frustrated and down during the incident-packed game against South Africa on June 18. - AFP photo

Boring Belgium look for creativity