

Sport

Miandad on MacGill

KARACHI, Oct 11: Pakistan coach Javed Miandad today urged his team to play positively in this week's second Test against Australia...

Miandad thinks MacGill is not as destructive as his illustrious countryman Shane Warne and can be dominated if his batsmen apply themselves.

"He is very new and not comparable to Warne but our batsmen played badly and that was why we lost the Test. Players should not get nervous about him," Miandad told AFP.

"We should forget about the defeat. I am sure that once we gather our rhythm we will stage a comeback. We have solved our problems after a few sittings and you will see improvement," he promised.

England have recently won against South Africa after being down and we can do the same way. The only thing needed is application," he said.

Naveed, Ijaz thwart Aussies

RAWALPINDI, Oct 11: Ijaz Ahmed celebrated his return to Test cricket with a fine 60, but it was Muhammad Naveed's resolute unbeaten century which helped Rawalpindi to hold Australia to an honourable draw in the four-day game Sunday, reports AP.

Chasing an improbable 393-run victory target in two and a half sessions, Rawalpindi finished the match at an impressive 263 for three in their second innings. Australia made 355 in their first innings and then got a lead of 94 runs after restricting the home team to 261.

Ijaz, who saf out the first Test, was inducted in the second Test squad, starting in Peshawar on Oct 15.

Naveed had some anxious moments in the nineties as he played out 24 deliveries without a run when he was on 95. However, he finally reached the three-figure mark when he gently pushed spinner Gavin Robertson for a single.

Naveed remained undefeated on a brilliant 115 which featured 17 boundaries.

Naveed and Ijaz were involved in a 120-run century opening partnership in 128 minutes as Australian bowlers got very little help from a flat track on the last day.

Ijaz hit Collin Miller for a straight six and a four off successive deliveries and in all hit eight boundaries before he drove medium fast Michael Kasprovic straight to Ricky Ponting at covers.

Gavin Robertson captured the wicket of Muhammad Wasim (38) in the last session when he had him trapped leg before.

Earlier, Australian skipper Mark Taylor remained undefeated on a patient 62 as the second innings folded at 298.

Last man Ponting (27) gave left-arm spinner Shaheel Ahmed his seventh wicket of the innings when he edged to wicketkeeper Nadeem Abbasi. Shaheel finished with a superb figures of 7-71.

Australia now travel to Peshawar on Monday where the second Test starts on Oct 15.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the final day of a four-day match between Pakistan's Rawalpindi Division Cricket Association (RDCA) and Australia on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 355 (D Lehmann 108, R Ponting 88) RAWALPINDI: First innings 261 AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 265-8) Slater c M Naveed b S Ahmed 44 Langer b Azhar Mahmood 11

M Waugh b Shaheel Ahmed 20 Lehmann retired hurt 100 Taylor not out 63 Healy c Nadeem Abbasi b S Ahmed 14 Fleming c Ijaz b Azhar 14 Robertson c Asif Mahmood b S Ahmed 0 Kasprovic lbw b S Ahmed 2 Miller c Azhar b S Ahmed 7 Ponting c Abbasi b S Ahmed 27 Extras: (b-2, lb-4) 238 Total: (all out) 298

Fall of wickets: 1-21; 2-66; 3-113; 4-246; 5-251; 6-252; 7-254; 8-262; 9-298.

Bowler O M R W Azhar Mahmood 22 2 71 2 Jaffer Jazir 7 1 34 0 Shaheel Ahmed 28 1 6 7 Mohammad Naveed 7 0 39 0 Zahir Shah 5 0 31 0 Shahid Javed 11 1 46 0

RAWALPINDI: Second innings Ijaz c Ponting b Kasprovic 60 M Naveed not out 115 M Wasim lbw b Robertson 38 Asif Mahmood run out 45 Extras: (b-1, lb-4) 263 Total: (For three wickets) 263

Fall of wickets: 1-120; 2-197; 3-263; Bowler O M R W Fleming 14 3 41 0 Kasprovic 12 3 43 1 Miller 16 2 61 0 Robertson 20 3 65 1 M Waugh 4 0 10 0 Langer 4 0 24 0 Slater 1.5 0 8 0 Healy 1 0 6 0

Result: Match drawn.

Akram to play in Shell Cup

KARACHI, Oct 11 (The Dawn/Internet): Pakistan's celebrated all-rounder Wasim Akram is set to make his debut in New Zealand where he is expected to play for Canterbury, one of the six district teams that form the first class National structure, in their premier one-day competition, the Shell Cup.

"I have not signed a contract with them (Canterbury) but I am likely to represent them this season. They contacted me on Thursday and sought confirmation, which I would give in a couple of days after meeting with the cricket board officials," Akram told Dawn from Lahore.

The 32-year-old veteran of 80 Tests and 247 one-day internationals said the agreement would be signed after he gets approval from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

"I would approach the authorities (PCB) for permission before accepting the offer from Canterbury. This is the procedure, which has to be followed. Initial discussions have already taken place and everything has been decided. I only require the permission of the PCB," Akram said.

He said the Shell Cup would start in mid-December and he would be released (by the PCB) because there are no engagements of Pakistan cricket team.

When pointed out that Pakistan is to tour India early next year, Akram said: "The Pakistan team is scheduled to leave for India on Jan 21 while the Shell Cup would finish by the second week of January. My engagement there doesn't clash with Pakistan's international commitments," he said.

Of the present New Zealand team, skipper Stephen Fleming, Nathan Astle, Chris Harris, Chris Cairns and Craig McMillan are from Canterbury.

Victoria may pick Warne MELBOURNE, Oct 11: Champion Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne would be selected for Victoria's Sheffield Shield cricket opening game later this month, but only if he could bowl, says state coach John Scholes, reports AFP.

Victoria launches their Shield season against David Boon's Tasmania here on October 21 and Warne is using the game as a benchmark for his recovery from major shoulder surgery earlier this year.

Warne, Australia's greatest wicket-taking Test spinner, has been testing his shoulder by bowling with a tennis ball and hopes to graduate to bowling with a cricket ball within days, Scholes said Saturday.

When Shane comes back I think we'd want the full package, more so than just as a batsman," the state coach said.

Pete, Pat stars of Vienna Trophy VIENNA, Oct 11: The two top-ranked players in the world - American Pete Sampras and Australian Pat Rafter - head a strong entry for the 800,000-dollar Vienna Trophy ATP Tour event which begins here tomorrow, reports AFP.

Sampras and Rafter, who is chasing the American's number one world ranking, both suffered shock early losses in this week's Basle tournament in Switzerland.

Tournament director Leo Gunther Humer said the field, which features seven of the world's top 10 players, is the strongest in the history of the event.

Sampras opens against a qualifier, while Rafter, who faces Zimbabwe's Byron Black in the first round, said: "I'm ready to do everything right here."

South African Wayne Ferreira, who stunned Sampras in Basle, faces fifth-seeded Slovak Karol Kucera in his first-round match.

Another outstanding match-up features No 7 seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia against 14th-ranked, but unseeded Briton Greg Rusedski.

Sukur brings Germany down

BURSA, Turkey, Oct 11: Hakan Sukur headed Turkey to a famous 1-0 victory over soccer giants Germany in their European Championship qualifier on Saturday, reports Reuters.

His chance came in the 69th minute after a lofted cross was punched away by German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, substitute Oktay Derelloglu tried again, forcing a poor punch from Kahn straight at Hakan who coolly accepted the gift and headed into the net.

And Turkey's top scorer was even cooler after the game. "I don't think I should be seen as the hero of the match. It was result won by the whole team who played together as one. But I'm really happy we won," Hakan said.

It was only the second time Turkey had beaten the reigning European champions in 15 attempts since they won the first encounter in 1951. The result puts them in control of Group Three following their opening 3-0 victory over Northern Ireland.

The game came to life in the second half with Turkey testing the new-look but injury-hit German side with high balls into the area. Germany counter-attacked but failed to capitalise on the opportunities that came their way.

Rustu saved a likely equaliser in the 79th minute intercepting a ball with his legs then leaping to his feet to tip a blasted shot from midfielder Lars Ricken over the bar.

He was in good form again later to deny Oliver Bierhoff. "It was a great result, but we knew we were going to win all along," the Fenerbahce goalkeeper said after the match.

The western Turkish city of Bursa, where Turkey beat the Netherlands last year, erupted into a cacophony of car horns and chanting fans who blocked the streets within minutes of the final whistle, similar scenes were witnessed across Turkey.

"This is a victory for the whole of Turkey... for all the people in the four corners of the country and for the 2.3 million Turks in Germany," said coach Mustafa Denizli.

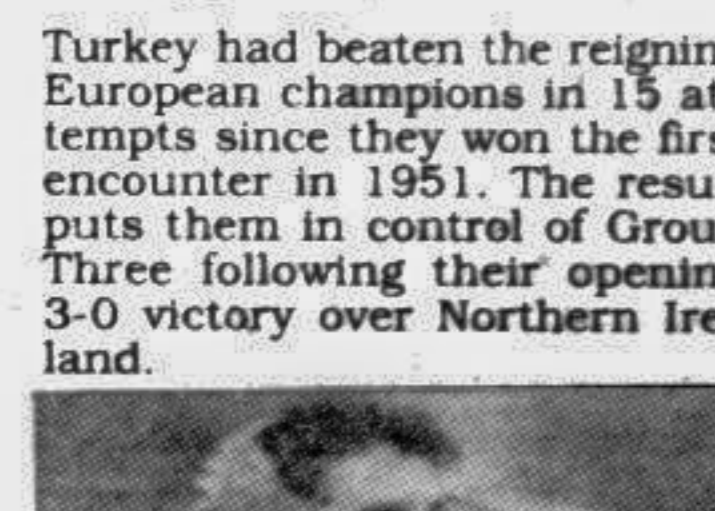
Turkey will be buoyed by the win when they take on Finland in another home fixture on Wednesday.

Three-time world champions Germany will be hoping for a better result in their second match when they visit Moldova.

No play in Sicily Open PALERMO, Sicily, Oct 11: Spanish top seed Alex Corretja's semifinal clash against Mariano Puerta in the 340,000-dollar Sicily Open was rained off on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Puerta was leading 7-5, 3-0 when play was suspended. The other semifinal between Argentine Franco Squillari and Spain's Galo Blanco did not start.

Both matches were rescheduled for today.



HAKAN SUKUR

The first half was dominated by a midfield duel with both sides seemingly reluctant to take any chances and risk defeat.



TURKS GO WILD: Turkish expatriates take to the streets of Berlin in celebration of their country's astonishing triumph over mighty Germany in a European Championship qualifying game on October 10.

Internet photo

Schools b'ball

BAF Shaheen School & College defeated Green Herald School 55-51 in the opening match of the Nissan schools basketball competition at Dhanmondi Gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

Winners led the first half 27-21. Babu and Jenas scored highest 15 points each for the winners while Alai scored highest 22 and Iraz 16 for the losers.

In the day's other match, Saint Nicholas School outplayed Sunbeams School 89-31, dominating the first half 33-6.

Aminur of Nicholas School scored 25 points and Ashis 15, while Dain Ahmed of Sunbeams scored 17.

Germany book WC berth KIEV, Oct 11: Germany qualified for next year's women's soccer World Cup on Sunday, tying Ukraine 1-1 in the second game of European playoffs in Kiev, reports AP.

The draw allowed Germany to advance 6-1 overall in the two-leg playoff among runners-up in the European group. Four European group winners - Sweden, Italy, Norway and Denmark - have already qualified for the World Cup set for June 19-July 10, 1999 in the United States.

Birgit Prinz opened scoring for Germany in the 20th minute, firing from close range when the ball slipped out of Ukrainian goalie Veronika Shulga's hands as she tried to stop a pass from the left.

Svitlana Fryshko tied up the game in the 50th on a counter-attack.

Germany dominated throughout but failed to come through on numerous scoring opportunities.

Postponed BEIJING, Oct 11 (Reuters/Internet): The final of the Shanghai Open tennis tournament between the top two seeds Goran Ivanisevic and Michael Chang was postponed on Sunday until Monday because of rain.

Indian boost for hosts

HARARE, Oct 11 (AFP/Reuters/Internet): India suffered a blow to its pride and international cricket ratings here on Saturday as Zimbabwe pulled off a stunning win.

It was minnow nation Zimbabwe's second only Test victory in six years, spanning 31 matches.

India was left frustrated after missing its best opportunity for years to get rid of the stigma of failing to win away since 1986.

Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell, Saturday's 61-run victory over India in the one-off Test match was about more than cricket.

"It does enormous things for Zimbabwe as a country," Campbell said after his team had dismissed India for 173 to register their second win in 31 matches since Zimbabwe were granted Test status in 1992.

"We are under pressure to deliver that something because, without trying to deride them, other sports in Zimbabwe don't compete in the top echelon like we do."

Along with the national soccer and rugby teams, Zimbabwe's cricketers and cricket administration took flak when India won the first two of three one-day internationals by wide margins in Bulawayo last month.

"A lot of people who don't know much about cricket had a lot to say after the two one-day defeats in Bulawayo," Campbell said with the air of a vindicated man.

The Test match that wound up India's third visit to the country proved an enthralling see-saw affair.

Zimbabwe, put in to bat after losing the toss, made Mohammad Azharuddin's decision look suspect by reaching 120-1. However, they then collapsed to 221 all out on the first day.

The Indian top order stumbled in their reply, only to be rescued by Rahul Dravid's 118 as the tourists mustered 280.

Gavin Renne and Craig Wishart then mounted the second biggest opening stand in Zimbabwean Test history, 138, and the home side were 219-2 ahead at the close of the third day - 160 runs ahead. But Saturday morning brought the remaining eight wickets crashing down as the Indian spinners, Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh, finished with seven victims between them.

Dismissed for 293 in the over before lunch, Zimbabwe were left with a defendable but not unreachable lead of 234.

"We were hanging our heads a bit at lunch," Campbell said. "But we got into the dressing room and told ourselves we had a test match to win."

"We have been so close on so many occasions, but in this one we gusted it out, bowled really good line and length, and got wickets when we needed them."

After 11.5 overs India had slumped to 37-4, but a fifth-wicket stand of 67 in 130 minutes between David and Saav Ganguly seemed certain to force at least a draw.

Then, an hour after tea, Dravid and Ganguly were dismissed within five minutes of each other and Zimbabwe knew the game was in the bag with a day to spare.

"It's probably the most fluctuating test match I've ever played in, but things went our way," Campbell said.

He will now lead Zimbabwe at a tournament in Bangladesh later this month before taking his team to the annual Sharjah Trophy one-day tournament in the United Arab Emirates in early November.

Later next month will come Zimbabwe's tour to Pakistan -- the other country they have beaten in a Test match -- for three Tests and as many one-day internationals.

India are also off to Bangladesh, but first they will have to face the wrath of frustrated fans after the shock defeat which followed the team's poor showing in the Sahara Cup against arch-rivals Pakistan in Toronto last month, as well as at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

But it was his fellow north-easterner who stole the show.

Del Piero, born a short drive from Udine in the village of Conegliano, rediscovered an appetite for soccer which had appeared to have deserted him.

He battled for the ball throughout and set up Di Francesco for what should have been Italy's second goal on 48 minutes with a delicate touch with the outside of his foot.

Di Francesco had time to pick his spot but scooped the ball over the bar from 20 metres.

Inzaghi also squandered two clear chances to score and Roma's Francesco Totti, who made his debut as a substitute after Del Piero came off to a standing ovation on 70 minutes, threatened a tired Swiss defence in the final minutes.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

WEST WAS AMBITIOUS BUT HE HAD HIS WON REASONS!

(Hand # 117)

Table showing card counts for West, East, South (D), and North. West: S: 876X, H: 10, D: AJ, C: J107XXX. East: S: 109X, H: 87X, D: KQ9XX, C: QX. South (D): S: XX, H: KQJ9XX, D: 7XX, C: 86.

Bidding: Neither side was vulnerable

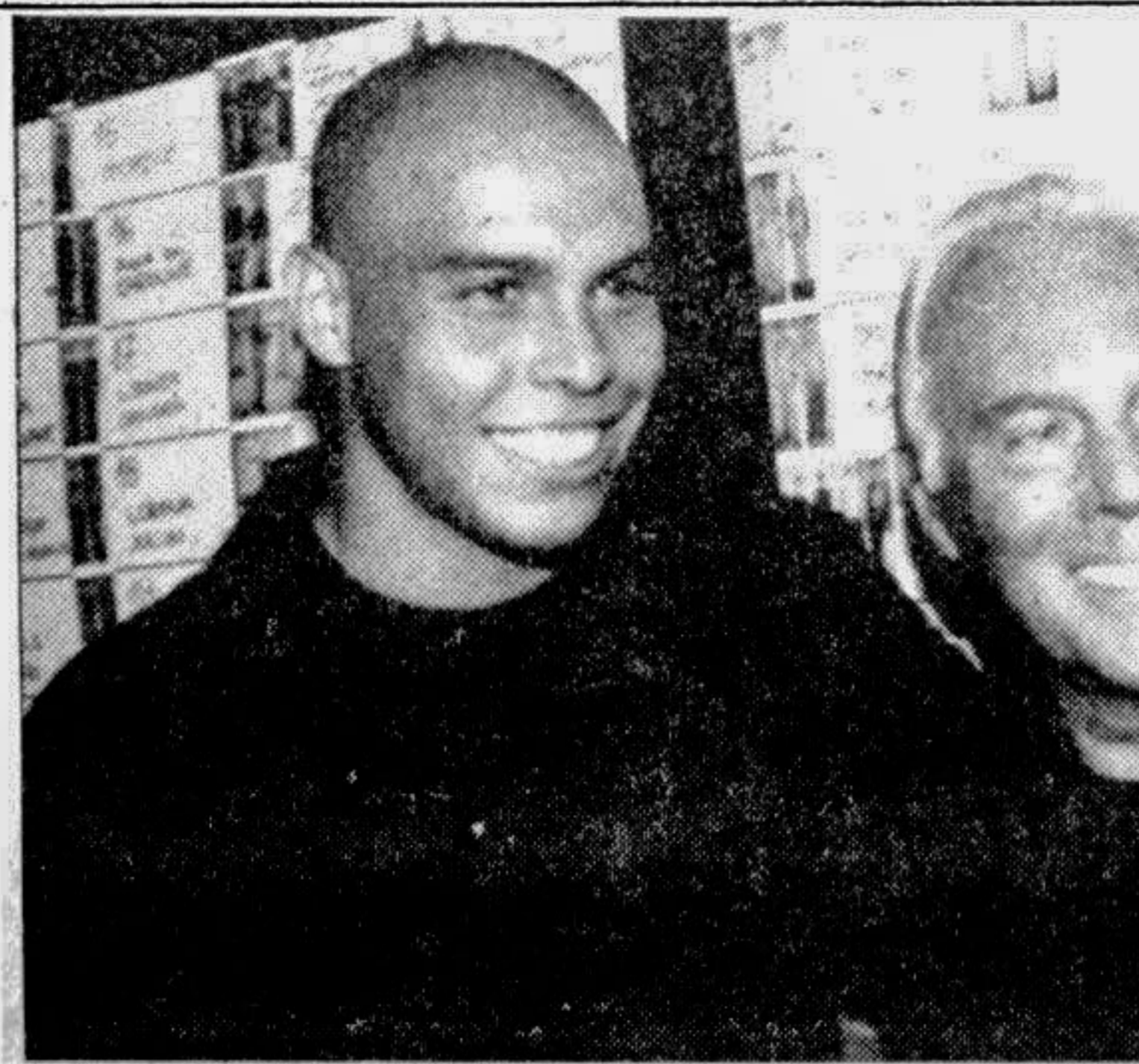
Table showing bidding for South, West, North, and East. South: Pass, 2 Hearts, Pass, Pass. West: 1 Club*, Pass, 6 Diamonds, Pass. North: Pass, Pass, Pass, Pass. East: 1 Heart**, 3 Diamonds, Pass.

* Artificial, 18 or more HCP. ** Artificial, showing 7-9 HCP.

When partner showed 7-9 HCP in response to West's opening of a powerful hand and South overcalled 2 Hearts West passed for partner to show his suit. When East bid Diamond, West assumed, unthinkably though, that all the high card points of East were in Diamond suit, and ambitiously bid 6 Diamonds. As West himself had all the HCP in Spades, A K of Clubs and one opponent opened Heart, West thought his assumption was reasonable since most of the remaining high card points were in Diamonds.

THE PLAY

South led the King of Hearts and when the dummy appeared, the declarer found that the contract was apparently a helpless one. He, therefore, wanted to minimise the loss. As there was no use in ducking the trick, he won the King with the Ace and led a small Diamond toward the closed hand. North went up with the Ace and returned a small Club. The declarer was not surprised to see that North failed to return a Heart, as he more or less anticipated a 6-card suit with South for his Heart overcall. And hence North had a singleton Heart. He was rather pleased to find the Ace of Diamonds with the North. The contract hinged on the distribution of the diamonds. If South had 4-card Jack of Diamonds, the hand could not be made. However, when on the King of Diamonds North produced the Jack, the contract was easy. The two Heart losers were parked on the good Spade and Club. Due to the most favourable distribution of the cards, a very ambitious slam was made. West wisely smiled to imply that such a thing happened in contract bridge in the past.



Superstar Ronaldo and Italy's world famous fashion designer Giorgio Armani (R) meet after the showing of Armani's spring/summer '99 collection in Milan on October 10. — AFP photo

Italy's hero wakes up from his slumber

UDINE, Italy, Oct 11 (Reuters/Internet): They say hell lasts for eternity but for Alessandro Del Piero, it came to an end after five months and 14 days.

The 23-year-old Juventus striker scored both goals in Italy's 2-0 defeat of Switzerland on Saturday and said he believed a disastrous spell dating back to April was finally behind him.

"I hope this is just the start," he told reporters. "I would love to have enjoyed a night like this a few months ago (at the World Cup in France). I always believed I would score again but these goals took a long time coming. A few too many games have passed for my liking."

On April 26 this year, Del Piero was in paradise. He brilliantly-taken goal in a 1-0 defeat of Inter Milan had effectively given Juventus the Italian league title.

He had his eye on the European Cup final against Real Madrid and, after that, on the first World Cup finals of his career.

But from then on, everything went wrong. He failed to score again in the league, was almost non-existent in Juve's 1-0 defeat at the hands of the Spaniards and pulled an adductor muscle towards the end of the match.

The injury and his loss of form wrecked his World Cup and he returned to Italy as arguably the biggest flop of the finals.

Within weeks, Del Piero was suing an Italian scandal magazine after it published photographs of him on a beach rubbing sun cream into the back of a "mystery man".

The man turned out to be Del Piero's older brother Stefano.

son friendly against Spain's Espanyol for uncharacteristic retaliation.

The league season started and still Del Piero could not find the back of the net.

Before Saturday, he had gone 17 matches without scoring in open play. His only goal came from the penalty spot in the Italian Supercup, a curtain-raiser to the league season.

But his double strike against the Swiss -- one, a classic striker's goal after Italy cut through the opposing defence and the other, a sweetly struck freekick -- may be just what he needs to rediscover his brilliant form from last season.

"Hallelujah Del Piero," ran the headline in Gazzetta dello Sport. "The national side has rediscovered a key player in his most difficult moment."

"Del Piero. Magnificent obsession," said Corriere dello Sport, praising Italy coach Dino Zoff for standing by his striker in his hour of need.

Del Piero's goals were the eighth and ninth of his international career and, more importantly, his first in a competitive match for Italy. His first seven strikes had all come in friendlies.

The win, and Denmark's shock home defeat by Wales, puts a rejuvenated Italy in the driving seat in Group One of the European championship qualifiers.

Italy have six months to wait before their next match -- six months which Del Piero will hope to enjoy more than the last.



DEL PIERO

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Across clues include: 1 Free way access, 5 Bamey Miller spinoff, 9 Spring-steen's birthplace, 12 Celebes ox, 13 Europe's neighbor, 14 Without further ado, 15 Got sign, 17 Katarina Witt's surface, 18 Forever, in verse, 19 Fun, 21 Fine, 22 Zest, 24 Treasy, 27 Hosiery shade, 28 Humorous Bombast, 31 --not choose to run, 32 9mm sub-machine gun, 33 Quick drink, 34 Parking-lot array, 36 On pens.

Down clues include: 2 Sci. course, 3 Sulk, 4 Bucca-nee's pet, 5 Confront, 6 Prefix meaning "equal", 7 Round, 8 Back-to-back Oscar winner, 9 Mythic equines, 10 Punch, 11 Dumb-founds, 16 Squid squirt, 20 Resident: suffix, 22 Stares, 23 Monad, 24 Snaphot, 25 Pallid-dromic name, 26 Hokey, 27 Rodate, 29 Woody's address, 30 Suitable, 35 Old French coin, 37 Sounded contented, 39 Groom's pat. often, 40 Jane Smiley novel, 41 Downey of TV, 42 Malignance, 43 "Lon King" bandle, 44 Within: prefix, 45 Video game name, 46 Arduous journey, 49 Flamenco cheer, 50 Actress Carrere.

Solution time: 22 mins. Yesterday's answer: CLOUT, DIF, TIGOL, LAME, GRU, DOPE, OVERLOAD, EWES, DANCER, OLANDS, HAM, VELL, MUD, KEY, GLOBE, ATOP, NOP, WARR, DAWAH, UER, HAD, HICUP, TUBES, UTAH, OVERCAST, LOSE, KIT, RITE, ARTS, YEN, SLAW.

CRYPTOQUIP F H B J H B T M J H E E G J N T F J K T T Y G V G K T H Y U C N C J T K V M U Y Y G E C. Yesterday's Cryptquip: SOME HOSPITALS CLAIM THEIR SURGEONS CHARGE PATIENTS AT CUT RATES. Today's Cryptquip clue: Y equals G. The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.