

Chelsea crash out

LONDON, Dec 2: Holders Chelsea were pitched out of the English League Cup quarter-finals on Tuesday, losing 2-1 at London neighbours Wimbledon, reports Reuters.

Robbie Earle and Michael Hughes scored a goal in each half to end Chelsea's 19 game unbeaten run.

Chelsea player-manager Gianluca Vialli pulled a goal back from a free kick in the 85th minute but tenacious Wimbledon held out of a place in the last four.

Chelsea's Russian goalkeeper had no chance when Earle blasted home a 20th minute header from a cross from the left.

Midway through the second half Marcus Gayle was pulled down in the penalty area by France defender Franck Lebourdais and Hughes scored from the spot.

Division One leaders Sunderland also reached the semi-finals when they beat Division Two Luton Town 3-0 at home.

A 41st minute own goal by Marvin Johnson sent Sunderland on their way before Michael Bridges and Niall Quinn added two more near the end.

Luton's Mitchell Thomas was sent off in the 35th minute.

Heerenveen hold PSV

AMSTERDAM, Dec 2: Heerenveen staged a remarkable recovery from three goals down to draw 3-3 with PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch First Division on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Heerenveen kept pace with the former European champions until the 31st minute when Luc Nijls found a gap in the home defence and opened the score.

A minute before halftime Russian midfielder Dmitri Khokhlov made it 2-0 punishing a mistake in the Heerenveen defence.

Tomek Iwan added PSV's third in the opening minute of the second half but Heerenveen refused to give up.

Jan de Visser pulled one back from a penalty in the 52nd minute. Later, Jeffrey Talan put Heerenveen right back in the game with a second goal.

Substitute Radoslaw Samardzic, the club's top scorer, made amends for a recent loss of form by levelling eight minutes from time.

Heerenveen remained third on 31 points four behind leaders Feyenoord. PSV moved up one place to seventh.

Bayern thrash Stuttgart

MUNICH, Dec 2 (Reuters/Internet): Bayern Munich crushed VfB Stuttgart 3-0 in the German Cup quarter-finals on Tuesday.

Carsten Jancker put the holders, an league leaders ahead with a 26th minute goal in the sub-freezing temperatures.

Bayern dominated in the second half with Mario Basler and Alexander Zickler adding goals in the 71st and 79th minutes.

"We were able to move the ball forward and take advantage of our scoring chances," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld.

His Stuttgart counterpart Winfried Schafer said his team fell apart in the second half.

Stuttgart have not won in six games.

Schafer defended his controversial decision to leave striker Fredi Bobic on the bench until the 57th minute. He said Bobic was disappointing in Stuttgart's 2-0 defeat at SC Freiburg on Saturday.

"He needs a break to find his creativity," Schafer said.



A midfield scramble between players of Chelsea and Wimbledon during their English League Cup fixture at Selhurst Park, London on December 1. Wimbledon won 2-1. — AP/UNB photo

Koreans in depths of despair

BANGKOK, Dec 2 (Reuters/Internet): World Cup finalists South Korea were beaten on a day that saw Turkmenistan, China and United Arab Emirates qualify for the second round of the Asian Games soccer tournament on Wednesday.

It was a miserable day for the Koreans, with the North eliminated and the South, one of the competition's favourites, turning a 2-0 lead into defeat after conceding an own goal and receiving the first red card of the tournament.

A hat-trick by Eintracht Frankfurt striker Yang Chen helped China to a 4-1 win over Cambodia. They qualified with the maximum six points having beaten the Lebanon by the same score on Monday.

North Korea went down 4-1

in a penalty shootout to the UAE after six goals had been shared in the 90 minutes. With only two teams in the group after Brunel pulled out of the tournament late last month, they were eliminated.

South Korea had looked to be well on their way to victory in their opening match after Choi Yong-soo put them ahead with two minutes gone and added another in the 42nd minute.

But things started to go wrong when they conceded an own goal after an hour and then Lee Byoung-keun was shown the red card for a second bookable offence.

Turkmenistan equalised in the 85th minute, Agave Muslim volleying into the roof of the net, and Igor Koslov added to the Koreans' misery with a winner a minute from time.

Group E apart, the top two teams in each group qualify for

round two.

Hong Kong's 5-0 defeat by Thailand meant they were eliminated. They had lost 6-0 to Oman in their opening game.

Thailand put pre-tournament worries behind them with two goals in the opening eight minutes. Krisada Pindit and Worawoot Srimaka were the marksmen.

Kiatikus Senamuang scored the third and fifth goals after 22 and 85 minutes respectively and Tawan Sripan struck the fourth in the 73rd minute.

The Thais are striving to restore their reputation battered by a punch-up that forced the abandonment of a warm-up match with Qatar last month and an international ban that followed a farcical match with Indonesia in September which both sides tried to avoid winning.

No pay, no play in Georgia

TBILISI, Dec 2 (Reuters/Internet): The new president of the Georgian soccer federation has said financially struggling clubs must be kicked out of the top league if the country is to recover any of the footballing glories it enjoyed in Soviet times.

"There is total chaos in the national football right now," said Merab Zhordania, who succeeded former Soviet defender Alexander Chivadze in October, in an interview with the news agency.

"Our league is very weak. Georgian football virtually doesn't exist any more. Even our top clubs have all been eliminated in the early stages of European competition and our national team has never placed higher than third in qualifying groups for the European championship and World Cup."

After a promising showing last year, when Italy, were grateful to draw in Tbilisi and Poland were beaten 3-0 in World Cup qualifiers, Georgia have disappointed, losing their last two European championship qualifiers in Latvia and Greece.

Zhordania, former boss of

perennial Georgian champions Dynamo Tbilisi, would like to see his old club regain the form that won them the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1981, becoming one of only two teams from the USSR to win European honours.

Realistically there is little the small, impoverished Caucasus nation can do in money terms to stop the likes of Ajax Amsterdam's George Kinkladze and Shota Arveladze or Newcastle United's Temur Ketsbaya from accepting big pay days in the West.

But, Zhordania said, at least by weeding out financial deadbeat clubs and severely pruning the 16-team first division Georgia could strengthen the competitiveness of its better clubs and that, in turn, could help the national team, too.

"We have too many poor clubs in our top league," he said.

"Starting next season, we will require bank guarantees for every team in the premier division. Those who don't meet our conditions must drop to lower divisions."

Georgia, whose 5.5 million people accounted for only two percent of the Soviet population, was nonetheless a major source of soccer talent. Six of the USSR squad that played in the 1970 World Cup finals in Mexico were Georgian, including captain Murtaz Khurtsilava and crowd-pleasing winger Slava Metreveli.

Striker David Kipiani, who lifted the Cup Winners' Cup with Dynamo Tbilisi, and Chivadze, known in his playing days as The Professor, maintained the tradition.

Such was the hot-blooded Black Sea nation's soccer pride that Georgia decided to do it

alone in international football even before the Soviet Union broke up at the end of 1991.

In 1990, under the guidance of federation boss Nodar Akhalkatsi, the coach of the 1981 Dynamo side, Georgia broke away and set up its own league and bid for UEFA recognition.

But while the political collapse of the Soviet Union finally brought international recognition, it also sent Georgia into a profound economic slump and gave its players the freedom to play themselves out of that poverty by heading westward.

And only one team has ever won the Georgian league -- Dynamo Tbilisi notched up their ninth title in a row last May and are well on the way to making it 10 in a row this season.

As one former player said recently: "It's not just money that tempts our players abroad -- it's boredom."

Dynamo Tbilisi face only two or three real challengers at best and many fixtures for the country's top teams are hopelessly mismatches -- Dynamo have scored 50 goals in 15 games this season for only eight conceded. Torpedo Kutaisi, the other Georgian veterans of the Soviet top division, have scored 42.

At the other end of the table, Guria Lanchkhuti, who spent the 1987 season in the Soviet premier league, have conceded 39 goals in 15 games and are having problems even paying for transport to get to games.

Last month Guria were condemned to a 3-0 defeat for failing to appear for a league match in Tbilisi. Zhordania said only the club's former prominence had saved them from being simply ejected from the championship.

"We took into consideration Guria's long-standing tradition in soccer," he said. "I hope they find a way to stay afloat."

If they cannot come up with bank guarantees, however, they and others could be victims of a clear-cut that Zhordania believes can resurrect a proud tradition.

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UEFA ban on Arsenal duo

LONDON, Dec 2 (Reuters/Internet): Arsenal's Lee Dixon has been banned "for at least one European match" for elbowing, even though the referee did not see the incident.

Dixon's teammate Ray Parlour was given the same punishment for kicking RC Lens player Cyril Rool in the final minutes of the clubs' fiery Champions' League match at Wembley on November 25.

Midfielder Parlour was sent off, as was the French club's Tony Vairelles, who was given a one-match ban.

A UEFA statement on Wednesday said that defender Dixon had been banned for "an elbow strike in the back of an opponent."

UEFA cited article 10 of its rules that states: "Disciplinary action may be taken even if the referee was not able to see gross unsporting conduct and was therefore unable to take any factual decision."

Wallace, Reifer rescue Windies

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 2 (Reuters/Internet): Philo Wallace and Floyd Reifer came to West Indies' rescue after they had lost two early wickets in the one-day game against an Eastern Province XI on Wednesday.

The pair put on 78 for the third wicket after the touring team had lost Clayton Lambert and Darren Ganga to medium pace bowler Muneke Ngam with only 26 scored.

West Indies recovered to reach 239 for seven in a match reduced to 46 overs a side by rain.

Wallace's 56 came off 64 balls and included eight fours. Reifer hammered 11 fours and a six in his 93 off 100 deliveries.

He added 66 for the fifth wicket with Stuart Williams, third highest scorer with 20.

Agarkar misses trip down under

MUMBAI, Dec 2: India suffered a big blow even before the team's departure for New Zealand when pace bowler Ajit Agarkar was ruled out of the tour because of a stress fracture of his left leg, reports PTI.

The executive secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Sharad Dwivedi announced here today that the injured Mumbai pacerman has been replaced on the 15-member team by Delhi medium pacer Robin Singh JR.

Dwivedi said that Robin Singh would join the team here later in the day.

The team is scheduled to leave for New Zealand tomorrow on their 45-day tour during which they will play three Test matches and five one-day internationals besides two side matches.

Agarkar was not sure when he would return to the team but sport medicine expert and orthopaedist Anant Joshi has advised him complete rest for four to six weeks. Agarkar may join the team later, he added.

Interestingly, the team coach Anshuman Gaekwad was maintaining from the first day of the short conditioning camp, which concluded here yesterday, that all the members were fit. He said that there were no injury problems in the team.

Agarkar has the world record of taking the fastest 50 wickets in one-day internationals.

JU cricket

By JU Correspondent
Department of Anthropology yesterday moved into the quarterfinals of the Jahangirnagar University inter-department cricket tournament after recording a 40-run victory against Botany Department.

Put into bat the Anthropologists scored a fighting 145 all out in 30 overs.

The Botanists chasing 146 for victory, never looked comfortable at the wicket and surrendered at 105 for nine in their allotted overs.

Counties for a change

LONDON, Dec 2 (Reuters/Internet): Yet another debate by the national team on Australian soil has given extra urgency to a meeting of English county chiefs starting at Lord's on Wednesday.

England's defeat within three days in the second Test at Perth attracted widespread condemnation and prompted further calls for a radical restructuring of the domestic game.

As the 18 county chairmen and chief executives gathered at the game's headquarters on Wednesday morning, all the signs pointed to a radical restructuring of the 109-year-old championship.

The counties will vote on a proposal to introduce two divisions from 2000 with the object of making the first class game more competitive and narrowing the gap between domestic and international cricket.

Last year, the First Class Forum of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), comprising the 18 counties and the MCC, voted 12-7 against splitting the championship.

The counties lining up against the proposal feared possible financial hardship if they were condemned to the second division.

But a deal brokered between the ECB and television's Channel 4 and BSkyB will inject more than 100 million pounds sterling (\$165 million) over four years in to the game and ensure a steady cash flow for the smaller counties.

England's performances continue to be inconsistent and they have been able to provide much more information to accompany the basic proposal for a two-division championship," said ECB chief executive Tim Lamb.

"Counties generally feel a little bit more comfortable with the idea."

Testing time for Darren

COSENZA, Italy, Dec 2: The son of Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has been given a trial at Cosenza, the Italian Serie B club said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Midfielder Darren Ferguson, 26, arrives in Italy after failing to win a regular first team place at English First Division Wolves.

The Scotland under-21 player started his career as a trainee at Manchester United in 1990 before moving to Wolves in 1994.

Cosenza, in the southern province of Calabria, are currently fifth from bottom of Serie B with three wins from 12 matches.

They won promotion to the Second Division last season.

Nothing amusing about co-hosting

TOKYO, Dec 2 (Reuters): Real Madrid and Vasco Da Gama may have been in the spotlight when the world club cup final was played in Tokyo on Tuesday — but there was plenty of activity going on behind the scenes too.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter was not in the Japanese capital just to hand out awards — there was plenty of hard talking to be done with the men who in less than four years time will be responsible for making a success of the first World Cup finals of the new millennium.

Some time in 2002 — the final dates should be decided later this week — Japan and South Korea will co-host the first finals to be held in Asia.

And as the clock slowly ticks away to kickoff, there is plenty of hard bargaining to be done.

When Japan began planning

to host the finals, the vision included high-tech super stadia, virtual-reality hostesses and organisers on a scale unprecedented at the world's most popular sports event.

But after being told by FIFA in 1996 that they were to share the tournament with their neighbours in South Korea, the Japanese decided to cut back on their budget and their ambitions — with depressing results.

Instead of hosting the 'credit card World Cup', Japan will be part-hosting an event they expect to be remembered for its rain and the difficult contrasts experienced by visiting supporters.

"It is not at all easy to organise this World Cup finals with two different nations involved," Hiroshi Ushijima, chief executive of the Japanese organising committee for 2002.

There are so many things which are different from one country to the other. The languages and the culture are different.

There are two different ways of life and two different organising committees. We are not delighted, but we take the view that we will have an opportunity to make the most of it and to organise one of the world's most spectacular and successful World Cups and that is our aim."

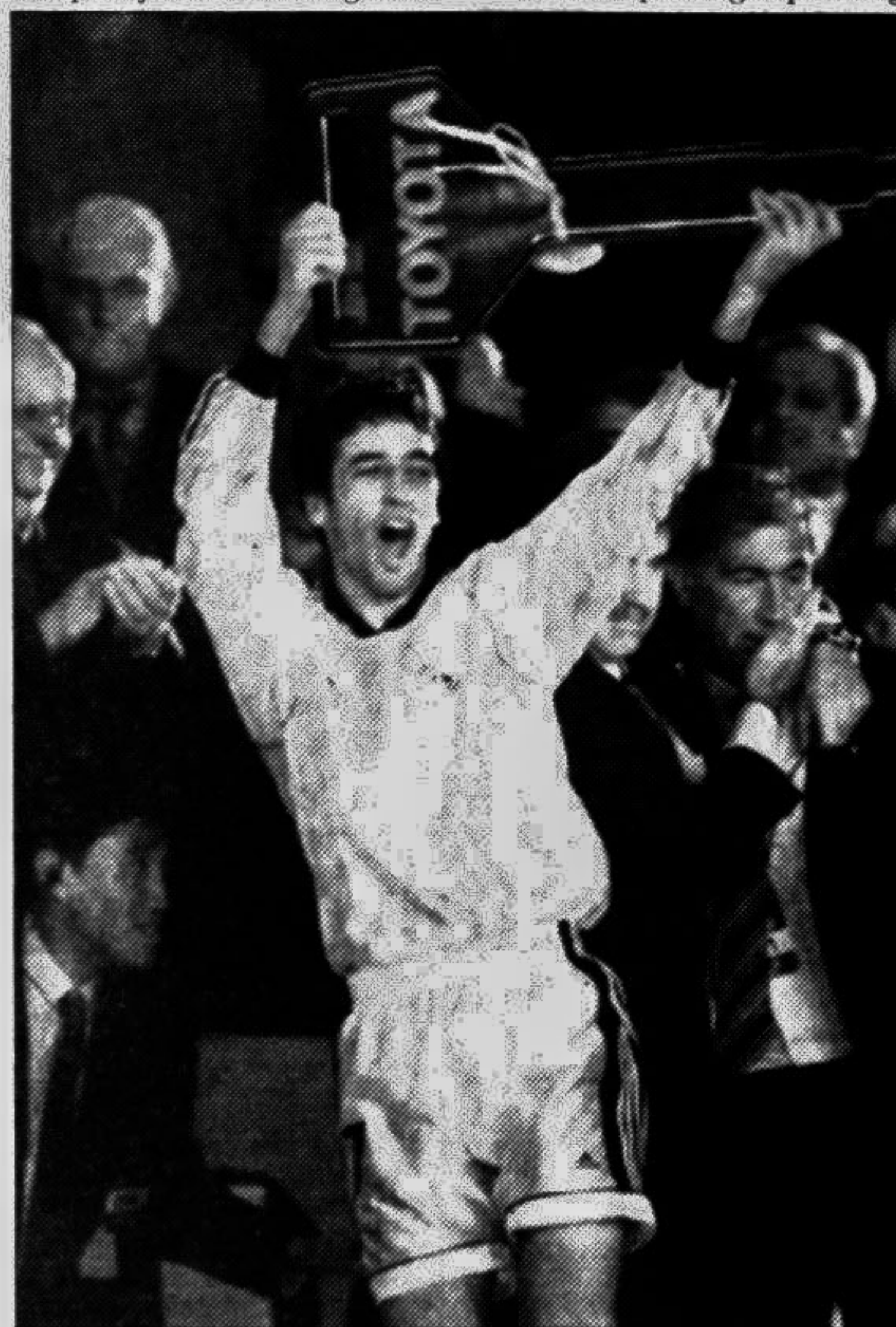
The 2002 World Cup is of course the first to be co-hosted and the fact that it is being shared by Japan and Korea, whose relations have been strained since Japan occupied Korea from 1911 to 1945, has not been easy for either nation.

But both however, have persevered in following FIFA's instructions despite difficulties with cash-flows, stadium-planning and weather forecasts.

FIFA president Blatter admitted as much on Monday when he said that this co-hosting could give rise to "a difficult and exceptional situation" as it would lead to "expenses for two World Cups and the income from one."

Both Japan and Korea remain proud of their separate identities and this individuality means that visitors will find huge differences between the two hosts of the 2002 finals.

Their lifestyles, cultures, languages and currencies are different as are their legal systems and social conventions.



KEY TO SUCCESS: An ecstatic Raul Gonzalez of Real Madrid holds aloft a king-size key after winning the Most Valuable Player award in the Toyota Cup final against Vasco Da Gama in Tokyo on December 1. Raul scored the winner in a 2-1 victory. The Spanish international was presented with a Toyota car. — AP/UNB photo

Mike pleads 'no contest'

ROCKVILLE, Dec 2 (Reuters): Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson pleaded 'no contest' on Tuesday to charges of assaulting two motorists last August after a minor auto accident and said he was under psychiatric care.

Over objections by the prosecution, which sought a conviction, Montgomery County District Judge Stephen Johnson accepted the no-contest plea and asked Tyson how he was doing.

"I'm fine, your honour," Tyson, 32, replied with a smile. Although a no-contest plea is not a conviction, it allows for punishment. The judge postponed sentencing until early next year and asked Tyson if he understood that he could get up to 20 years in prison for the two counts of second-degree assault.

"Yes," said Tyson, who was previously convicted and jailed for raping a young woman in Indiana and suspended from boxing for biting an opponent in the ring.

Tyson told the judge he had been under the care of a psychiatrist for a few months, but was not taking any medication that might influence his ability.

Earlier this year, at the request of the Nevada Athletic Commission, Tyson was evaluated at Massachusetts General Hospital and found to be suffering from stress and depression.

In November, the Nevada Athletic Commission reinstated his boxing license, which it had stripped away from him 15 months earlier for biting Evander Holyfield's ears in a 1997 title bout.

Tyson is expected to return to the ring in Las Vegas in January to fight South African Frans Botha.

Tyson pleaded no-contest to two counts of assault for allegedly punching Ambielec

Saucedo, 62, in the mouth, and kicking Richard Hardick, 60, in the groin.

The scuffle occurred after a three-car accident in the Washington suburb of Gaithersburg, Maryland on August 31. Tyson was a passenger in a car driven by his wife, Monica, and had to be restrained at the scene by his own bodyguards.

Tyson's attorney, Paul Kemp, insisted in court that his client did not intentionally

intended to physically injure," Kemp told the judge.

Kemp said Tyson misperceived the situation after the accident and mistakenly believed Hardick was trying to leave the scene when the man got in his car and locked the doors.

In an interview with Reuters before the hearing, Kemp said: "He (Tyson) acted inappropriately. He was upset about things that had occurred that day, and he was angry that no one showed concern for his wife."

Ridiculous German bid

BONN, Dec 2 (Reuters/Internet): A German fourth division soccer club have come up with an audacious plan to improve their promotion chances -- signing up the entire Cuban national team.

Bonner SC, a small-time club in Germany's sedate state of government, hopes to seal a co-operation agreement with the Cuban soccer federation next week.

Under the scheme the Cubans would come to Bonn to benefit from German facilities and coaching. In return Bonner SC could field any of the Cuban players.

Bonner SC coach Rainer Thomas said club bosses came up with the idea after watching a video of Cuba playing Brazil earlier this year.

"We thought maybe we could bring one or two Cuban players to Germany," Thomas said.

Things developed to the extent that the Cubans said an entire team would train here, gain playing experience here and play international games against other smaller nations."

Thomas and club chairman Hans Vief planned to fly out to Cuba on Sunday and sign the co-operation agreement next week.

Nothing Mr. Tyson did was

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP
UKU XPV MYY CEY
TKRY, HVMKRIQ OPA
ZJREXUAYH, YQZLJTCPH
PO CEY PZVAJ ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IT'S NO WONDER THAT THE POOR SCULPTOR WENT MAD BECAUSE HE LOST HIS MARBLES.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals P
The Cryptoquip 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.

SIX NO TRUMPS