

Maes downs Nijmegen

AMSTERDAM, Dec 7: NEC Nijmegen defender Luuk Maes handed Feyenoord Rotterdam a 1-0 win Sunday, when he tapped a free kick past his own keeper, reports AP.

Maes' own goal three minutes from time came when he poked Jean-Paul van Gastel's harmless-looking free-kick into Nijmegen goal.

Feyenoord (12-2-1) now lead Ajax (9-5-3) and Vitesse (10-2-4) by six points, having played two games fewer than Vitesse and three fewer than Ajax.

Ajax's recent injury malaise continued after the news this week that key offensive players Jari Litmanen and Shota Arveladze will be out of the running until the new year.

With Wednesday's crucial Champions League trip to FC Porto looming, Ajax needed an 83rd-minute Sunday Olisen equaliser to salvage a 1-1 draw against struggling MVV Maastricht.

The league should have reached its 17-game half-way point but has an uneven look due to the Dutch KNVB football association's irregular fixture list and a string of weather-caused postponements.

Cambuur Leeuwarden's 2-1 win at Sparta Rotterdam was their 18th game, compared to NAC Breda, which has only played 14.

Four points from six meant a good week for Bobby Robson's PSV, adding a 4-3 win at NAC in the Brabant derby Sunday to their 3-3 draw at fourth-placed SC Heerenveen Tuesday.

PSV's league top-scorer Ruud van Nistelrooy found the net in the NAC game to take his total to 14, two ahead of Greek Nikos Machias who opened the scoring in Vitesse's unlikely win.

Reuters adds, in France, league leaders Girondins Bordeaux lost 2-1 at Olympique Lyon but Olympique Marseille failed to take full advantage as they drew 1-1 at A.S. Auxerre.

Bordeaux claim the Autumn Champions' title but are the halfway leaders only on goal difference.

Reines are still third, albeit 10 points adrift, after a goalless draw at Metz.

In Italy, substitute Michael Silvestre scored an injury-time equaliser to spare Inter Milan's new manager Mircea Lăescu a disastrous start at Vicenza but Juventus slipped to their second successive league defeat at home to Lazio.

Brazilian Ronaldo came off the bench to cross for French defender Silvestre to grab his last-ditch goal for Inter and clinch a 1-1 draw.

Lazio's Marcello Salas scored nine minutes from time at the Delle Alpi to leave Juventus without a win in their last five games — their worst run under coach Marcello Lippi.

The Turin side remain fifth but are six points adrift of leaders Fiorentina, who defeated Bologna 1-0.

Second-placed AS Roma came from behind to thrash Perugia 5-1 while Parma, third, won 2-0 at Sampdoria.

Latin football report

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 7: (Reuters/Internet): Former Argentine captain Oscar Ruggeri made his coaching debut at the weekend for a club who sacked him as a player two years ago after he led a strike.

Pele's former club Santos were involved in yet another scrap in the Brazilian championship semi-finals.

In Mexico, UNAM goalkeeper Jorge Campos played the last third of a game as a striker in the semi-final tie against Guadalajara but his team still went out.

ARGENTINA: Oscar Ruggeri, the most capped player in Argentine history, saw his San Lorenzo fight back from two goals behind to draw 2-2 with Newell's Old Boys on his debut as coach.

Ruggeri, a central defender famous for his rugged style of play, took over after Alfio Basile, the man who made him Argentina captain, resigned last week.

Ruggeri had been sacked by the club two years ago for leading a nationwide players strike and had finished his playing days with Lanus, a less fashionable Argentine club, in 1997.

The weekend's other games in the Apertura (Opening), the first of two championships in the Argentine season, were of little interest as Boca Juniors had won the title the week before.

Boca, whose title was their first in six years, maintained their unbeaten record with one game left after drawing 1-1

away to Lanus. They have won 12 and drawn six matches and are nine points clear of second-placed Gimnasia-La Plata.

BRAZIL: Pele's former club Santos, who have had serious disciplinary problems this year, were involved in more ugly scenes as they lost 2-0 to Corinthians in the second leg of their three-match Brazilian championship semifinal.

Santos had captain Narciso sent off in the 31st minute for a vicious lunge at Corinthians' Marcinho, one of 39 fouls in the first half alone.

But before heading for the dressing room, the midfielder had to be restrained by team-mates from fighting with Corinthians players.

It was one of several first half scraps which forced the referee to play seven minutes of injury time.

Corinthians had gone ahead away to Guadalajara as goal-keeper but was sent into attack after Luis Garcia shot Guadalajara ahead in the 50th minute. Campos' efforts were in vain, however, as Guadalajara held on to win 2-1 on aggregate and claim a place in the final.

The eccentric Campos, famous for wearing outrageous luminous kits, has played as a forward at both club and international level, often switching roles during games.

In the previous round, UNAM had surprisingly knocked out Cruz Azul, the team with the best overall record in the competition.

Necaxa came from behind to beat Atlas 3-2 thanks to two goals by Carlos Hermosillo, a prolific goalscorer who has been consistently overlooked by the National team, and one by Uruguayan Sergio Vazquez. The first leg had ended 0-0.

PARAGUAY: Olimpia won the title, beating old rivals Cerro Porteno 3-1 to take the two-leg final 5-3 on aggregate in the fourth meeting between the two sides in little over a month.

Olimpia overcame a terrible start when midfielder Luis Romero was sent off in the second minute but the sides evened out just before halftime when Carro Porteno's Dario Caballero was dismissed.

Ever Fernandez gave Cerro an 18th minute lead but Olimpia hit back with two goals by Mauro Caballero and one by Gilberto Palacios.

In addition to the overall final, the teams had met twice last month to decide the Clausura, the second stage of the championship, which Cerro won.

Olimpia had won the Apertura, the opening stage, when they also beat Cerro Porteno in the final. The two teams met a total of eight times during the championship.

BOLIVIA: Blooming reached the overall final of the championship by beating Wilstermann 1-0 to win the second stage.

Victor Antela scored the winner but was sent off in the 46th minute for a violent tackle.

Blooming finished the second stage four points clear of Wilstermann, who will be their opponents in the final for winning the first stage in the first half of the year.

Wilstermann would have won the title automatically if they had finished top of the second stage as well.



Lazio's Alessandro Nesta is being followed by Juventus' French playmaker Zinedine Zidane. The Roman club defeated its Turin hosts 1-0.

— AP/UNB photo

Sport

Schools kabadi

Sharmin Textile High lift title

Sharmin Textile Mills Model High School clinched the title in the 8th All Sports schools kabadi tournament overcoming Dolaipar High School by 68-62 points in the final yesterday, reports APB.

The winners, who were trailing by 32-28 points in the first half, earned four bonus.

A total of 16 teams, divided into four groups took part in the ten-day meet.

Mac jockeying for position

BONN, Dec 7: Former tennis world number one John McEnroe has indicated he is a candidate for the presidency of the International Tennis Federation, according to today's edition of Der Spiegel, reports AFP.

McEnroe, former scourge of umpires on the professional circuit and still wowing fans on the Senior Tour, said he wanted to replace what he called the brainless elements currently running world tennis.

The 39-year-old American, who won 77 tournaments in a star-spangled career which brought seven Grand Slams, said he was seriously considering a tilt at the ITF presidency.

"I'm not stupid — this sport has given me a lot and I think the players respect me," said McEnroe whose on-court tantrums made him the enfant-terrible of the sport and tormented his obvious genius in the eyes of many.

McEnroe, who has described the exorbitant sums of money now floating around the game, also deplored the absence of players with 'big' personalities on the Tour.

The last strong personality on the ATP Tour was Boris Becker, nobody has succeeded him," said McEnroe, who slammed Chilean world number two Marcelo Rios for his negative image and said he did nothing to boost tennis' image.

Former French star Yannick Noah, 38, and McEnroe himself, one of the major crowd pleasers in his day, told Spiegel that Rios should give more to tennis and charged that "today's players only play because they went to become millionaires."

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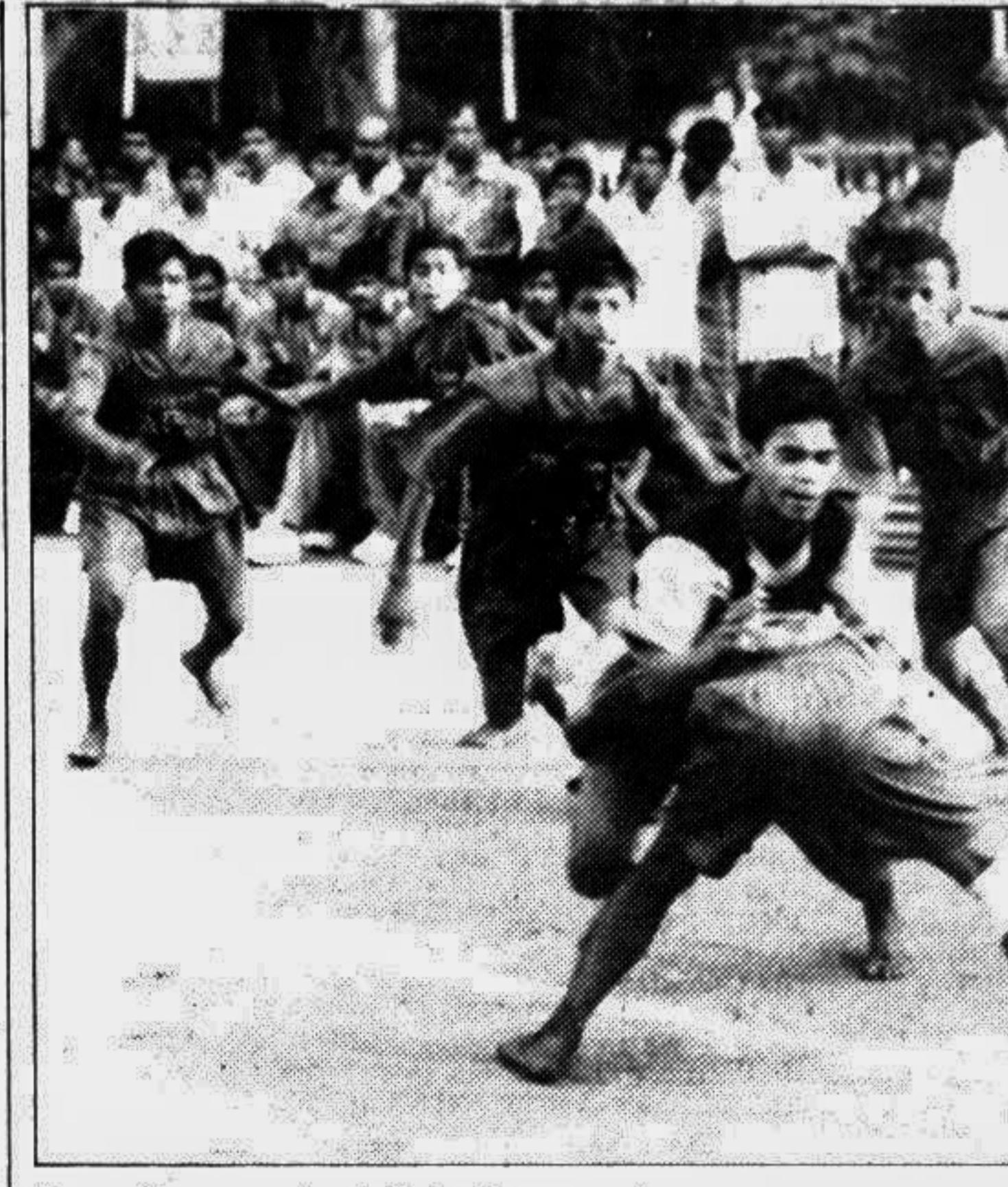
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— AP/UNB photo



Scene from a schools kabadi encounter.

— Star photo

BANGKOK NOTEBOOK

BANGKOK, Dec 7: First it was bugs, now it's the birds. Assorted beasts seem bent on harassing athletes at the Asian Games.

The Chinese team has lodged a formal complaint that its weightlifters were being showered by insulation foam. The culprits: Sparrows trying to build nests in the rooftop of the indoor weightlifting arena.

But her three teammates will be facing tough competitors from South Korea, China and Taiwan when the Asian martial art event begins Monday.

Meanwhile, Thailand was guaranteed not to get any medals in the men's 4-kilometer race because most of the cyclists were declared unfit.

Only Panupong Maneepong and Thongchai Wankerdaijarn were able to complete the 12-lap race in training while the rest of the team could not keep up after the halfway point, ruining the team combination.

As officials scurried to find a solution before the start of competition later Monday, anti-bug patrols fanned out to several other venues to control mosquitoes and other insects.

The first alarm was raised when an unusual number of insects were discovered in the Asian Games swimming pool last week. Since then there have been complaints that mosquitoes infiltrate some indoor arenas as the sun sets.

TAIWAN'S TENVINS

With one world champion and three gold medalists from the last Games, Taiwan's bowling team is expected to roll to victory at the 13th Asian Games.

The team includes Tseng Sufen, the former women's world champion and gold winner at the Hiroshima Asian Games four years ago, as well as Hiroshima gold medalists Lin Han-cheng and Chou Mao-lin.

Ten gold medals are at stake in the bowling competition, which begins Wednesday. South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Singa-

pore and Thailand are also holding strong squads.

CAN'T MISS BRONZE

Win some, lose some, say the Thais.

The hosts of the Asian Games got a guaranteed bronze medal after Siwaporn Mayer received a first-round bye in the taekwondo competition.

But her three teammates will be facing tough competitors from South Korea, China and Taiwan when the Asian martial art event begins Monday.

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ECONOMY ROUTE TO GOLD

By trying to save some yen.

Praiseful Samaranch

BANGKOK, Dec 7: International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch gave Bangkok a glowing report Monday for its work as host of the Asian Games, reports AP.

That's not surprising, considering Samaranch wades through the globe bestowing compliments on Olympic committees like a proud father.

Samaranch, who called the organizational nightmare of Atlanta 1996 a "most exceptional" Olympics, had high praise for the regional games, which are in their 13th edition here.

the parents of Naoko Takahashi set the Japanese marathon runner on the road to a near-world record performance at the Asian Games.

With her parents cheering "Gambaro, gambaro! (Fight hard, fight hard!)," Takahashi grabbed the Games' first gold Sunday by winning the women's marathon in the fifth best time ever.

In her early teens, when she asked her parents which school club to join in her hometown of Gifu, they strongly suggested athletics.

"They said to join the least expensive one, which was the athletics club," the 26-year-old said. "They were right."

Their advice paid off as Takahashi glided into the Games' main stadium in a time of 2 hours, 21 minutes, 47 seconds — less than a minute of the world mark.

"I could see my parents and I heard them crying out, 'Gambaro, gambaro!'" It was wonderful," the petite runner said.

Takahashi, who runs and works for a chemical company in Nagoya, is regarded as a top contender for the marathon crown at the 2000 Olympics.

TICKET BONANZA

Thailand, which badly needs to revive its economy, expects to reap 200 million baht (5.6 million dollars) from ticket sales at the Asian Games, the organisers said Monday.

It got off to a good start by collecting 63 million baht (1.7 million dollars) from ticket sales sold at the Games' opening ceremony Sunday. The 60,000-seat stadium appeared filled to capacity.

An official release said only a few more tickets were left for the closing ceremony December 20.

11:00 In Conversation/Gajal Ki Chaye (Serial) 11:35 Serial: Silent Reech 12:00 Telebrands 12:15 UGC Prod (Underrun Closed)

DD INTL

9:30am Opening & News in English 9:45 Business Plus 10:00 Hello! Bombay (film magazine) 10:30 Kashmir File (reporting)

11:00 Light Music 11:15 Dekh Bhai Dekh (Jaya Bachchan's comedy serial) 11:45 Film Magazine/Muthi Bhar Sitara (News in Hindi) 12:30 TBA 1:00 Hindi Film Show

12:30 Bharat Samachar (News in Hindi) 12:45 Captain

13:00 Top cat 11:30

13:30 The Real Adventure of Jayam 7:00 Tom & Jerry Kids

7:30 The Popeye Show 8:00 Scooby & Scrappy D. 8:30 Perils of Penelope 9:30 Josie & Pussycat 9:45 Drink The Little 10:00 Flinstones 1:30 Richie Rich 11:00 Top cat 11:30 Captain

12:00 Scooby Doo 12:30 The Cartoon Grand Pix 1:30

2:30 The New Scooby Doo

3:00 The Popeye Show 4:00 The Flintstones 4:30 Flintstones 5:00 Ninja Robots 5:30 Flintstones 6:00 Top & Jerry Kids

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