

Sport

Bayern-Bremen
League Cup
finale

AUGSBURG, Germany, July 15: An own goal by Germany defender Christian Woerner allowed Bayern Munich to beat arch rivals Borussia Dortmund 1-0 on Wednesday for a place in the final of the German League Cup, reports Reuters.

German champions Bayern, entering the traditional six-team pre-season tournament from the semifinals, won despite the absence through injury of six first-choice players.

The only goal of a tense, relatively uneventful match came in the 66th minute when Woerner, who joined Dortmund from Paris St Germain, diverted a free kick from Bayern playmaker and new captain Stefan Effenberg into his own net.

Dortmund, who have spent millions in reinforcements, buying not only Woerner but also strikers Fredi Bobic and Victor Ikpeba, came close to levelling when striker Heiko Herrlich hit the post with a header in the dying moments.

Bayern, who have won the tournament for the last two years, will face Werder Bremen in Saturday's final in Leverkusen.

Concerned
Chilavert

Buenos Aires, July 15 (Reuters/Internet): Paraguay World Cup captain Jose Luis Chilavert said on Wednesday that the three stadia rebuilt for the Copa America, being held in his country, would become white elephants when the tournament finished.

"They (the organisers) said the stadia would be there afterwards for the benefit of Paraguayan football but they will be white elephants," the volatile and outspoken goalkeeper told an Argentine television sports programme.

"In the football of my country, the odd match between Cerro Porteno and Olimpia (Paraguay's two biggest clubs) brings in some money, but the other matches are played without anybody watching."

"I've always said that the Copa America should not be held in Paraguay because in my country, there are a lot of poor people who don't have enough to eat and we can't afford the luxury of organising a tournament of this size."

Chilavert, a goalkeeper who also scores goals regularly from free kicks and penalties, refused to play for his country in protest at the money spent of hosting the 12-team competition.

Paraguay were knocked out by Uruguay on penalties in the quarter-finals, when they appeared to sorely miss his charismatic and inspiring leadership.

"Paraguay got knocked out because we didn't do things well," Chilavert said, describing Uruguay as being "very inferior to Paraguay."

Chilavert lives in Argentina, where he plays his club soccer with Velez Sarsfield.

Inzaghi sets
his target

Milan, July 15: Juventus striker Filippo Inzaghi reckons that he and strike partner Alessandro Del Piero can score 60 goals next season and take the club back to the top of Italian football, reports AFP.

The pair virtually managed the feat in 1997-98, when Del Piero scored 32 goals and Inzaghi another 27; while Juventus notched their third league title in four years and their third consecutive European Cup final.

Now, after one of their worst seasons for decades, the Turin club is keen to lift itself back up off the floor, starting this weekend when they open their Interno campaign in Romania.

"Juventus have taught me what a wonderful thing it is to win," said the striker, who two goals in 10 minutes failed to stop Manchester United reaching the 1999 European Cup final.

"Last year, I was left empty-handed and was pretty disappointed about it. Now I hope things can go back to the way they were."

Del Piero, Zidane and I are capable of repeating the feat of two seasons ago, when we scored 60 goals," he told Tuttosport. "We've done it before, and we can do it again, even though it's not going to be easy."

Looking at the big-spending competition, he said: "There are a lot of other strike partnerships around next season which look great on paper," he said. "But they've never done anything like that."

Yugoslavs back
with a bang

Belgrade, July 15: Partizan Belgrade marked Yugoslavia's return to international soccer after NATO's 78-day air campaign against the country with a 6-0 drubbing of Estonia's Flora Tallinn in the first qualifying round of the European Champions League on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The result means that Partizan, who should easily survive next week's second leg in Estonia, are virtually guaranteed a place in the second qualifying round of the competition and a fierce two-legged tie with Croatian runners-up Rijeka.

The Yugoslav champions got off the mark in the 12th minute, when skipper Sasa Ilic placed the ball past Tallinn's Tomas Tothvar. Striker Milorad Pekovic made a dream debut for the club with two goals, the first coming in the 25th minute when he unleashed a fierce shot into the top corner.

Partizan went 3-0 up in the 36th minute when Vladimir Ilic headed in from close range.

Their head held high



ASUNCION, Paraguay, July 15: Even if they don't take home the Copa America, Uruguay already is a winner, reports AP.

The team of fresh-faced juniors, some barely out of high school, has captured the imagination of soccer fans in Paraguay with a dazzling run to the finals of the South American championships.

Who could help but like a team that, against heavy odds and some of the world's highest-paid stars, has pulled off upset after upset with a mix of youthful exuberance and cool compo-

sure.

sure.

In Sunday's final, Uruguay will face Brazil — a 2-0 winner over Mexico on Wednesday night — and certainly will be the underdog once again. That's fine with them.

They've beaten Paraguay and Chile. What's one more?

These boys have been playing together for some time. They have poise. In the penalty shootout they didn't miss any," Chile's coach Nelson Acosta said after his team was eliminated Tuesday night. "They're young, but they beat us good."

In fact, Chile dominated much of the game, keyed by veterans Jose Luis Sierra and Fabian Estay and the high-priced "Zasa" front line of Ivan Zamorano and Marcelo Salas.

But the young Uruguayan back line held firm. Inspired by fullback Alejandro Lembo and 20-year-old goalkeeper Fabian Carini, Uruguay settled down

and began to strike back.

In the 22nd minute, Uruguay scored off a corner kick by Walter Coelho that Lembo headed past a flat-footed defense.

Chile missed two chances to tie it minutes later when a Sierra free kick crashed off the crossbar and a penalty by Salas hit the post.

Zamorano finally drew Chile even 1-1 on a header in the 60th minute, eventually sending the match to penalty kicks.

The Uruguayans converted all five while Cari got his hand Mauricio Aros attempt, putting Uruguay in the final.

Not bad for a team that came to the tournament expecting to get some experience and not much else.

The former Australian Test cricketer, whose contract as Sri Lankan coach ended prematurely in 1998, also said his downfall was to suggest skipper Arjuna Ranatunga be replaced by opening batsman Sanath Jayasuriya.

Earlier this month, after Sri Lanka's dismal World Cup performance in England, the Sri Lankan cricket board did exactly what Yardley had suggested.

New skipper Jayasuriya declined to react to the Yardley interview which was published widely here but said he looked to the future and had the support of Ranatunga and other seniors.

As part of a major clean up of the Sri Lankan cricket team following their early exit from the World Cup in March, the authorities have also sacked the team manager and rehired Dav Whatmore as coach.

Whatmore groomed the country to its shock World Cup victory in 1996.

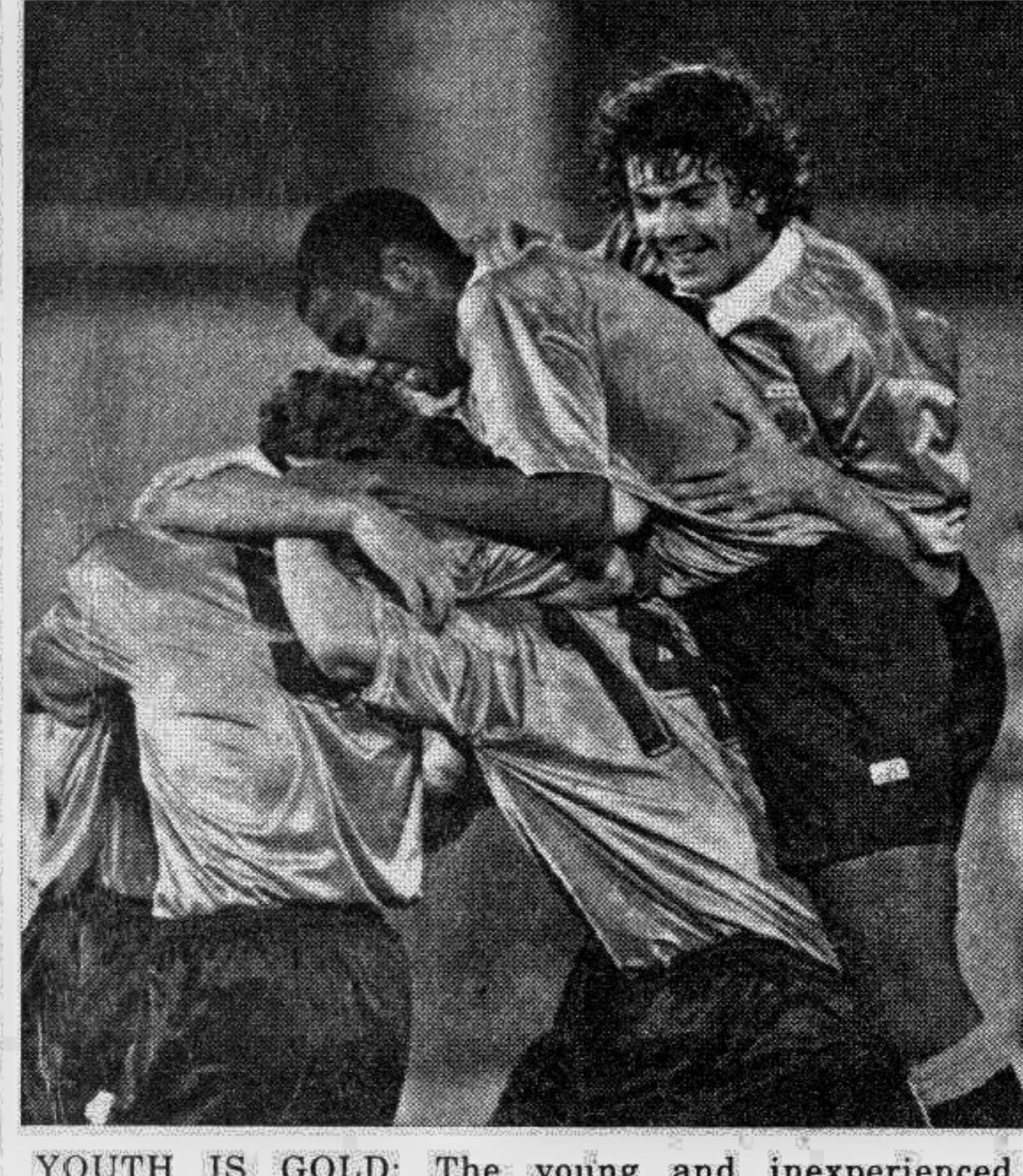
Ranatunga and several seniors are due to "clarify all questions and issues regarding the World Cup and the Sri Lankan team" at a press conference later Thursday.

"This is not an accident," Pua said. "We believed in these youngsters and they fully corresponded. The players arrived here with no name and will leave the Cup with great prestige."

"Back home, they already are heroes."

Uruguayans opened their newspapers Wednesday to see headlines trumpeting the achievement of the nation's new idols and "the wizard" Pua.

El Observador gave it the proper dimension: "Pua's team has made an entire people tremble."



YOUTH IS GOLD: The young and inexperienced Uruguayan squad has caught the imagination of fans with their spirited display in the Copa America.

— AFP file photo

Cloud over Asian football



KUALA LUMPUR, July 15: Asia's hopes of capitalising on the 2002 World Cup to promote football in the region may suffer if the region's threat of a boycott becomes a reality, an Asian Football Confederation official warned Thursday, reports AFP.

The promotion of football on the continent may suffer if the threat of boycott of the

tournament goes through," he told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The official said the 2002 World Cup was significant to Asia because it was the first time ever the region with 3.5 billion people was hosting the World Cup.

"There is a need for FIFA to be sensitive. By accepting Asia's request, FIFA will help significantly boost the profile and image of football in the region," he added.

The comments came after the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) walked out of the FIFA Congress in Los Angeles last Friday in protest at the number of places allocated to the region in the 2002 World Cup.

The move by Asian members, angry at being handed only four-and-a-half places at the 2002 World Cup by football's world governing body, humiliated AFC president Sepp Blatter, who had appealed to them not to leave the meet.

He vowed that football's world governing body would not give in to pressure to award an extra place for the 2002 finals,

which will be hosted jointly by Japan and South Korea.

But other Asian delegates had warned that a threatened boycott of the next World Cup would take place unless an extra fifth berth, which was given to South America, is granted to Asia.

AFC supremo Peter Velapandian said the continent deserved five places in the qualifying tournament.

The Asian official also took a swipe at Blatter for being insensitive to Asia's quest to develop football in the region.

Asia has 42 countries who will fight for two berths while South America with 10 countries but have five places, he said.

The official also said resources spent by FIFA and AFC to enhance the interest and profile of football would go to waste if Asia boycotts the premier event.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.