

Castle Cup Namibia's

WINDHOEK, Oct 3: Angola came from behind to draw 1-1 with Namibia in the second leg of the Castle Cup Southern Africa championship final here on Saturday and succeed Zambia as holders, reports AFP.

China-based striker Elphas Shivute headed Namibia in front after seven minutes at the Independence Stadium and Fernando Zico Francisco levelled through a close-range shot 11 minutes into extra time.

Angola triumphed 2-1 on aggregate after winning the first leg 1-0 in Luanda last Sunday and collected the 85,000-dollar first prize with Namibia receiving half the amount.

The result completed a disappointing weekend for the largely-desert country on the south-west coast of Africa as the national team crashed 67-18 to Fiji in the Rugby World Cup on Friday night.

Top English referee David Elleray was one of the busiest figures on a hot, cloudless afternoon in the Namibian capital, booking nine players, including Namibia captain Mohammed Ouseb.

Some of the yellow cards from the house master at the famous Harrow school near London seemed harsh in a tight, tense game notable for the unimaginative finishing by the teams.

Namibia made the perfect start with the giant Shivute heading a Quinton Jacob free kick into the net off the hand of Angolan goalkeeper Fernando 'Nando' Morais.

Morais almost gifted the Brave Warriors another goal early in the second half, losing possession while trying to dribble the ball out of the penalty area.

The unpredictable veteran goalkeeper made excellent extra-time saves from German-based Razadar, Jikene and Sylvanus Njambari before Angola made the crucial breakthrough.

Salvador 'Jaburu' Avelino set up Francisco inside the penalty area and his hard, right-foot shot flew past goalkeeper Fillemo Kanalelo, struck the underside of the crossbar and dropped into the net.

Tulu back to business

ADDIS ABABA, Oct 3: Ethiopian runner Derartu Tulu, the first African woman to win an Olympic gold when she took the 10,000m title during the 1992 Barcelona Games, will compete in the World Half Marathon Championships at Palermo, Sicily on Sunday, Ethiopia's Athletics Federation announced Saturday, reports AFP.

The 27-year-old has been absent from international athletics for the past two years after having a baby and suffering from health problems.

She will be among nine Ethiopian athletes -- four women and five men -- to participate in Palermo.

Tulu is also expected to compete in the marathon at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Worns out of qualifiers

BERLIN, Oct 3: Borussia Dortmund defender Christian Worns has withdrawn from Germany's final Group Three European Championship qualifier with Turkey on October 9 in Munich, German coach Erich Ribbeck said Sunday, reports AFP.

Worns, signed from Paris St Germain in the summer, injured a calf in his side's 3-0 victory over Hansa Rostock Saturday.

He joins libero Jens Nowotny on the sidelines. The Bayer Leverkusen sweeper pulled a muscle in his left thigh during his club's 3-1 defeat by Wolfsburg.

Reigning European champions Germany need only draw the match to ensure qualification for the finals to be held in Holland and Belgium next year although if Turkey win the Germans would then need to win a play-off tie with the runners-up from another Group.

Two new events included in 2002 Games

ATHENS, Oct 3: The International Olympic Committee on Saturday approved the addition of skeleton and women's bobsled to the sports programme for the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, reports AP.

Skeleton is a sport in which an athlete rides a sled head-first down an ice track next year.

The IOC executive board also approved the addition of men's and women's 1,500-metre races in short-track speedskating, men's and women's cross-country ski events, and men's combined sprints in Nordic Combined.

The action came a day before the Salt Lake Organising Committee makes a presentation to the IOC board.

Elements kill

From page 13

Arnold lbw b Fleming 0 De Silva not out 19 Jayasuriya c Healy b Fleming 2 Ranatunga not out 1 Extras: (b-8, lb-1, w-4, nb-5) 18 Total (for four wickets) 61 Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-7; 3-10; 4-60

To bat: R Kaluwitharana, C Vaas, R Herath, N Zoysa, M Muralitharan

Bowler O M R W McGrath 10 3 25 1 Fleming 5.5 0 14 3 Warne 5 1 11 0 Miller 1 0 2 0



Barcelona's Brazilian superstar Rivaldo (R) outpacing Real Valladolid's Juan Vizcaino during their Primera Liga fixture on October 2.

Primera Liga

Barca blank Valladolid

MADRID, Oct 3: Patrick Kluyvert scored one goal and made the other to lead Barcelona to a comfortable 2-0 win over Valladolid in the Spanish First Division on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The Dutch striker, omitted by coach and compatriot Louis van Gaal for the last two matches, seemed considerably sharper than before, leading the attack with determination.

He swivelled brilliantly to net the first on the half-hour and then played a perfect one-two with Rivaldo to lay on the second for the Brazilian in the 72nd minute.

The win took Barcelona three points ahead of second-placed Rayo Vallecano, who face Racing Santander away today.

The only surprise was how Barcelona restricted themselves to a meagre two goals when such was their supremacy that half a dozen would not have flattered them.

Their fluid movements repeatedly broke down through poor final passes, often from Rivaldo who had an erratic game.

Luis Enrique Martinez was another culprit, chipping over a gaping goal early in the second half and leaving Van Gaal venting his annoyance on the touchline.

"We don't need to worry about the missed chances," Luis Enrique said. "We should be celebrating the fact that we're leaving with a really good result and we're three points clear."

Towards the end Barcelona players appeared to be queuing to take pot shots at embattled Valladolid goalkeeper Cesar Sanchez, who could certainly have found a quieter way of celebrating his recent first international call-up.

Previously unbeaten at home this season, Valladolid's main threat came in the first half through the powerful running of forwards Rodrigo Fabri and top scorer Victor Fernandez, Brazilian Winger Arjison, making his home debut, made little headway.

In the second half one of their few breaks led to the dismissal of Barcelona defender Winston Bogarde, sent off for bringing down Fernandez who was charging towards goal.

The Dutchman must now miss the next match against Real Madrid.

This will be a big worry for Van Gaal, who saw Frank de Boer, another of his Dutch defenders, go off injured in the first half with a pulled muscle. De Boer may miss the Real game too.

In Saturday's only other Primera Liga game, Numancia and Malaga drew 1-1.

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Toshack, Maradona stands by Anelka

MADRID, Oct 3: Argentinian football legend Diego Maradona and Real Madrid coach John Toshack have strongly defended the club's troubled French international striker Nicolas Anelka after the club's president Lorenzo Sanz said he may swap the player for French World Cup winning star Zinedine Zidane, who is currently with Italian side Juventus, reports AFP.

Toshack compared the 23-million-pound (38-million-dollar) forward to former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali, saying: "Anelka is like Ali: he floats like a butterfly and stings like a bee."

For his part Maradona said: "Anelka is worth the fee paid for him. I am with him because I had the same responsibility as him and it is very nice but when you are unfit it's difficult to show people what you are worth."

Sanz had said: "I hope and I believe Anelka will work well because if I see he does not deserve to play, I am thinking of letting him go to Juventus for six months in exchange for Zidane."

"But to give him up? Hang on. I will not exchange Zidane for Anelka at this moment. He is 20 and he will surely explode."

Anelka joined the meringues on the eve of the new season after a long and bitter transfer wrangle with his former club Arsenal but has not scored a goal in a season so far where he has had injury and form problems.

Anelka, dropped by France for their recent international in Armenia, has already indicated that he is finding it difficult to settle in Spain.

Zidane, who has a Spanish wife, last season said he would like to play in Spain.

Fenerbache targets Vogts

ANKARA, Oct 3: Turkish first division club Fenerbache is talking to former Germany coach Bert Vogts as a possible replacement for manager Rivan Dilmen, who resigned Thursday, the all news NTV channel said Saturday, reports AFP.

French First Division Sedan's Impressive run on

PARIS, Oct 3: Two goals from Alex Di Rocco brought Sedan to a top position in the French First Division on Saturday with a 2-1 home victory over fellow promoted side Troyes, reports AFP.

Marseille missed their chance to take top spot, only managing to draw 1-1 with Metz at the Stade Velodrome.

Sedan now have 16 points from nine matches, one point ahead of Lyon and two points ahead of Monaco, Auxerre and Paris Saint Germain who all play Sunday.

In other matches, Strasbourg drew 2-2 with Bordeaux, Nancy beat Rennes 3-0, Le Havre beat Montpellier and St Etienne beat Bastia, both with 2-1 home victories.

Nancy's 3-0 victory came by virtue of a hat-trick from their veteran Irish striker Tony Carino, with the first two of those goals coming from the penalty spot.

Bordeaux skipper Michel Pavon, left the field in the 11th minute against Strasbourg with a facial injury.

Pavon, suffering from an internal cut in his upper lip, should be fit to play again in the next few days.

Scottish Premier League Rangers march on

GLASGOW, Oct 3: Rangers maintained their 100 per cent league record and their place at the top of the table after winning 3-2 at Dundee on Saturday in a match marred by a double sending off, reports AFP.

Dundee's Scottish Under 21 star Lee Wilkie saw red four minutes before the break after flooring Rangers Dutch striker Giovanni van Bronckhorst.

Then somewhat surprisingly referee Stuart Dougal followed up by sending van Bronckhorst to the dressing room.

Dundee manager Jocky Scott was puzzled by Dougal's decision: "I didn't think any of the two players deserved to be sent off," he said. "But that's not my decision. We just have to get on with it."

Rangers manager Dick Advocaat expressed his satisfaction at a narrow victory with Gabriel Amato getting the winner with six minutes to go.

But the fibrox boss was also surprised at Van Bronckhorst's dismissal.

"Goo said he did nothing and I will have to see it on TV," said Advocaat.

"However it is not that important. The important thing is that we won the game. It was a well deserved victory. We dominated the game and played the better football."

Serie A

Ronaldo's welcome return

MILAN, Oct 3: Ronaldo made a dream return to San Siro here on Saturday night, coming on as a substitute to score Inter Milan's winner as the Italian league leaders beat Piacenza 2-1, reports AFP.

In the day's other match, Cagliari and Torino drew 1-1 in a game which saw three men sent off.

Golden boy Christian Vieri missed a penalty and a string of chances in the first half but Inter finally broke the deadlock with a 59th minute header from defender Christian Panucci.

Ronaldo, tormented by tendon trouble and poor form over the past year, put it all behind him by stabbing the ball home in the 70th minute, before Davy Dionigi converted a late penalty for the visitors.

Piacenza, coached by Gigi Simoni, the man who guided Inter to the 1998 UEFA Cup before being sacked early last season, never looked like winning. But they came close to snatching a draw in the last 10 minutes.

Inter boss Marcello Lippi said: "We had to suffer, but I wouldn't say it was a win that gave me the shivers. In the first half, we created chances, we missed a penalty but we still didn't get demoralised."

"In the second, I took a gamble by using three forwards and we were able to make the breakthrough. Piacenza did well towards the end and three of our players were carrying injuries. We took a few risks," he admitted.

But he added: "We'd created a lot before then and we deserved to win. Building a great team also involves suffering and I think we had the right mental approach to this game. I'm very happy."

Simoni was treated to an ovation by the Inter fans and he admitted: "That was something exceptional for me. It is something I will always remember."

Simoni paid tribute to his men's performance but also a touching one to his struggling former protegee, Ronaldo.

"He looked physically sharp, although he needs more games to reach his full match fitness," Simoni said.

"But after all he's been through over the past year with his injuries and all the pressure, I really wish him a year of success with Inter. I still consider him the greatest footballer in the world."

Inter made an ideal start in the seventh minute when Francesco Moriero chipped over from the right, Piacenza defender Stefano Sacchetti showed Paulo Sousa to the floor and the referee pointed to the spot.

However, Vieri silenced the 70,000 crowd by snatching his

spot-kick against the right-hand post. And the Serie A's top goalscorer was no luckier in the 15th minute when Vieri's header from seven metres flew over the bar.

Sousa was the next to test Piacenza keeper Flavio Roma with a half-volley after Ivan Zamorano had nearly headed the ball sideways, while Vieri sent in a glancing header on the half hour from a Panucci free-kick.

Javier Zanetti missed a better chance two minutes later when Vieri nodded the ball down in a goalmouth melee but the Argentinian's angled snapshot flew wide of the near post.

The pressure was unrelenting and Roma made a stunning reflex save five minutes from the break when Vieri met Grigorios Georgatos' cross with a bullet header from just outside the six-metre box.

Massimo Rastelli had Piacenza's only scoring chance a minute later when he swivelled round to hit a shot which Angelo Peruzzi did well to block.

Roma pulled off more heroics in stoppage time, saving Zamorano's header from point-blank range after Georgatos had floated in the free-kick.

Fifteen minutes in the locker-room was the only respite for the Piacenza keeper as Vieri collected the ball with his back to goal and turned to club in yet another shot just a minute after the re-start.

Sousa, who'd been booed for a series of bad passes, made way for Ronaldo in the 52nd minute, but it was Panucci who found the target first -- rising to head Georgatos' corner into the top right-hand corner.

Lippi reversed his earlier tactical move -- replacing Zamorano with French midfielder Benoit Cauet -- as Piacenza fought back.

But Ronaldo found his winner in the 70th minute, poking home the loose ball after Roma

failed to clear Georgatos' high cross into the area.

Piacenza refused to give up and Peruzzi tipped over a dangerous header from Dionigi in the closing minutes.

But the Piacenza striker took revenge from the penalty spot in the 84th minute after Peruzzi tripped Paolo Cristallini, while Arturo Di Napoli missed an equaliser in the 87th minute.

Piacenza kept up the pressure right to the end and even Vieri helped out by heading away the visitors' injury-time corner.

Cagliari's new coach Renzo Ulivieri watched his team earn a rare point at a controversial home tie.

Cagliari made an ideal start with Cameroon centre-forward Patrick Mboma opening the scoring in the seventh minute after working a neat one-two with playmaker Domenico Morleo.

But both sides lost a man before the break, with first Torino midfielder Fabio Pecchia and then Cagliari defender Gianluca Grassanoia being ordered off for a second bookable offence.

Torino levelled with a controversial penalty six minutes after the re-start when Cagliari defender Fabio Macellari was judged to have deliberately hand-balled to stop a cross from Alessio Scarchilli.

Torino centre-forward Marco Ferrante, whose spot-kick was saved last week against Inter Milan, this time found the back of the net.

Cagliari finished the game with just nine men on the pitch; defender and captain Matteo Villa being dismissed in the closing minutes for protesting.

Ulivieri replaced Uruguayan Oscar Tabarez in charge last week after a dismal start to the season saw Cagliari rock bottom of Serie A with just one point from its first four matches.

STANDINGS

Table showing Italian Serie A table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points). Includes teams like Inter Milan, Lazio, AC Milan, Fiorentina, Roma, Reggina, Juventus, Udinese, Lecce, Bari, Torino, Perugia, Verona, Venezia, Parma, Bologna, Cagliari, Piacenza.

'El Phenom' promises more

MILAN, Oct 3 (AFP): Ronaldo boosted his flagging morale by scoring Inter Milan's winner here at the weekend and then promised the San Siro faithful there was more to come.

Dropped for the 5-1 demolition of Parma after a dreadful performance away to AS Roma, 'El Phenom' (The Phenomenon) returned to San Siro to prod home Inter's second goal as the Serie A leaders beat 2-1 Piacenza on Saturday night.

It was just what the doctor ordered after being dogged by tendon trouble and self-doubt last season following a traumatic World Cup final.

This season, coach Marcello Lippi has made him sit in the stands or on the substitutes' bench as Ronaldo struggled to make up the pre-season training he missed due to the Copa America.

But the efforts were rewarded on Saturday with what the Brazilian called: "The joy you get from scoring a goal that's worth three points."

"It's the kind of goal I've been missing so badly. More than anything else, I'm happy because it's given Inter a great win and because it's given me a great boost for my morale."

He went on: "It such a wonderful feeling to be playing again after having been through so many training sessions without getting a game. But

at San Siro since last May, will play for Brazil in a friendly against Holland this week. Inter officials hope he will only be used on a part-time basis, as he was on Saturday.

Strike partner Christian Vieri, who had been busy replacing Ronaldo as the star of Italian soccer, was meanwhile in the dunces' corner after missing a string of chances against Piacenza, including an early penalty.

But the the Serie A's top striker welcomed the strike by his Brazilian teammate, saying: "He's coming back into form and to score a goal was fundamental for his morale."

Glossing over his own miss from the spot, Vieri said: "You can't win them all. Goals get scored and goals get missed, otherwise your opponents may as well just stay at home."

"The important thing is that we created a lot of chances and although it all got a bit frenetic at times, at least it's a sign that the will to win is there."

Christian Panucci, one of Lippi's many new recruits, was celebrating a second-half header which broke the deadlock before 70,000 fans.

"To score my first goal for Inter at San Siro, in front of the home fans, is just a wonderful feeling," he said.

Ronaldo, who hadn't scored these last two weeks of hard work have really done the job. "Now, God willing, I feel in really good shape. But I can still improve. There's still time and I'm going to use it for more training," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword puzzle grid and CRYPTOQUIP section with words like HVU, BNMKR, JH, J, FUISID, RJCONC, AJP, SMSJOD, FU, UPNSBV, HN, ASCO, DNSC, VJKC.