

One-match ban for Ronaldo

MILAN, Oct 27: Inter Milan's Brazilian striker Ronaldo was banned for one match by Italian League officials here on Tuesday after he elbowed AC Milan's Fabian Ayala in the face during last weekend's derby, reports AFP.

The punishment was lenient, considering that officials decided to suspend Fiorentina's Sandro Cois for two matches for a similar offence.

Ayala, who was sent off at the end of his team's 2-1 win, after felling Ronaldo's strike partner Christian Vieri, also picked up a one-match ban.

Ronaldo will now miss Inter's Serie A match here on Saturday against league leaders Lazio.

Abbiati thinks it's his fault

MILAN, Oct 27: AC Milan goalkeeper Christian Abbiati broke down in tears here after a 1-1 draw with Chelsea which his teammates believe has cost them a place in the Champions League, reports AFP.

The arithmetic says that Milan can still reach the second round by beating Galatasaray and hoping that Chelsea's match next week with Hertha Berlin does not finish all square.

But logic says that a draw is the most likely result at Stamford Bridge as it would qualify both teams, while there is every chance of Milan losing to a rejuvenated Galatasaray at Istanbul's Ali Sami Yen stadium.

Milan would then finish bottom of Group H and fail to win even the consolation prize for the team finishing third - a UEFA Cup slot.

Abbiati, beaten by Dennis Wise after the Blues' skipper had been put clean through the Milan defence on Tuesday night, said "It's all my fault" three times and then burst into tears.

After pulling himself together, he went on: "I should have come out. I'm not interested in whether someone should have tackled him. I was there and I should have reacted quicker."

Skipper Paolo Maldini rated his team's chances of reaching the next round as "not more than one in a hundred. We are all very disappointed."

Midfielder Andrea Guglielminipietro added: "We haven't played well in the Champions League. Now we need a miracle."

Striker Oliver Bierhoff, who had scored just three minutes before Wise, said: "I feel sorry for Abbiati, but he definitely shouldn't feel it was his fault."

"Now we just have to try to beat Galatasaray and not think about what Chelsea and Hertha are doing."

Bierhoff had faith in the comment by Chelsea coach Gianluca Viali that his team isn't this kind of mentality where people go onto the pitch just to take it easy. Our fans wouldn't be happy, and our club management would be even less."

Viali also spared a thought for his tough, controversial skipper.

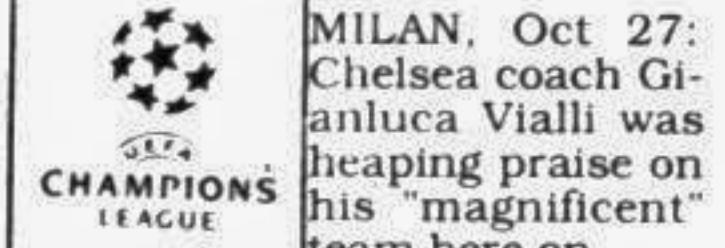
"Dennis doesn't score many goals," he said. "It could be a vital goal, it could be a meaningless goal if we don't get a point at least against Berlin."

"But of course, if we go through, Dennis Wise the captain scoring a great goal at San Siro makes him the best person to do that."

"As a captain, he's had a quite difficult time over the past week because of the sending-off in Liverpool. I think he deserves it."

Meanwhile, Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni was left to rue a defensive error which cost his team victory but said he wouldn't be praying for a mira-

Viali extremely pleased



MILAN, Oct 27: Chelsea coach Gianluca Viali was heaping praise on his "magnificent" team here on Tuesday night after they bounced back to draw 1-1 with mighty AC Milan at San Siro, reports AFP.

A draw next week against Hertha Berlin would be enough to qualify both teams at Stamford Bridge and leave Milan to scrap it out in Istanbul with Galatasaray for a place in the UEFA Cup.

"I think we played really well," Viali said. "I think that in the first half we were the best team on the pitch and we created chances by playing good football."

"In the second half, losing Dan Petrescu because he has flu, meant that we lost width on the pitch and it got difficult. We started defending a little bit too deep and I think they were better than us."

"Then they scored a goal... but our reaction was magnificent," he said. "The players showed great character, coming back at San Siro. We equalised in three minutes and I think a draw is a fair result."

"We are all proud of our performance because I think we put on a great performance. Of course, as a manager I'm happy because it was a very difficult task, but we made it."

Commenting on Tuesday night's match, the Zaccheroni claimed that Chelsea played an essentially defensive game, and played it well.

The Italian coach also said his team would not be playing for a draw next week against Hertha, claiming it would not be the English thing to do.

"Matches can finish in a draw, but to start one with the aim of getting a draw can be a dangerous thing to do. So we'll be going out to win."

Viali understood the problem by his fellow countrymen here.

"It's probably become very difficult for Milan now because Galatasaray can finish third in the group and qualify for the UEFA Cup if they win again. So it won't be easy for Milan," he said.

"But we will be playing our game because in England, there isn't this kind of mentality where people go onto the pitch just to take it easy. Our fans wouldn't be happy, and our club management would be even less."

Viali also spared a thought for his tough, controversial skipper.

"Dennis doesn't score many goals," he said. "It could be a vital goal, it could be a meaningless goal if we don't get a point at least against Berlin."

"But of course, if we go through, Dennis Wise the captain scoring a great goal at San Siro makes him the best person to do that."

"As a captain, he's had a quite difficult time over the past week because of the sending-off in Liverpool. I think he deserves it."

Meanwhile, Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni was left to rue a defensive error which cost his team victory but said he wouldn't be praying for a mira-

cle in their next match.

"It's not that we need a miracle, because in football there are no miracles," Zaccheroni said. "But it'll take a real feat."

"At this point, Hertha and Chelsea have a very big advantage over us. They're a few points in front, and we're going to play each other and we're going to Istanbul against a team who are

"On one side, there was a team who had to make all the running, and on the other there was a side who could settle for a draw, and who therefore tried to contain things and then strike on the counter."

"At the beginning, I thought they were better. We weren't aggressive enough and didn't press their defenders. We were too tense."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

As for the lapse which let Dennis Wise through, Zaccheroni said: "It was exceedingly careless. It seems that we have do extraordinary things in order to score, but other teams..."

What impressed the Italian most about his opponents was "their determination and their tenacity. But certainly, the two men up front, (Tore Andre) Flo and (Gianfranco) Zola, worked very hard."

"It's massacred himself," he added. "He was going after every ball, keeping possession, making space and coming back to defend."

As for his team's general performance, he said: "I don't know what I can criticise them for, they tried everything possible to win against a good team who defended well and who proved they are very dangerous on the break."

Commenting on Tuesday night's match, the Zaccheroni claimed that Chelsea played an essentially defensive game, and played it well.

The Italian coach also said his team would not be playing for a draw next week against Hertha, claiming it would not be the English thing to do.

"Matches can finish in a draw, but to start one with the aim of getting a draw can be a dangerous thing to do. So we'll be going out to win."

Viali understood the problem by his fellow countrymen here.

"It's probably become very difficult for Milan now because Galatasaray can finish third in the group and qualify for the UEFA Cup if they win again. So it won't be easy for Milan," he said.

"But we will be playing our game because in England, there isn't this kind of mentality where people go onto the pitch just to take it easy. Our fans wouldn't be happy, and our club management would be even less."

Viali also spared a thought for his tough, controversial skipper.

"Dennis doesn't score many goals," he said. "It could be a vital goal, it could be a meaningless goal if we don't get a point at least against Berlin."

"But of course, if we go through, Dennis Wise the captain scoring a great goal at San Siro makes him the best person to do that."

"As a captain, he's had a quite difficult time over the past week because of the sending-off in Liverpool. I think he deserves it."

Meanwhile, Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni was left to rue a defensive error which cost his team victory but said he wouldn't be praying for a mira-

cle in their next match.

"There used to be a rule that shoot, you can't lose on a disqualification. You gotta get up, and people used to get up and fight. They changed the rules. I still think shoot you can't lose on a disqualification. You got to get up and fight."

Holyfield said he believed that Norris was told by his cornermen to stay on his stool as an easy payday.

"It's kinda sad. If he was a champion, you know, shoot, you're not giving up your belts. This guy not one time was holding that he can't go on," Holyfield said.

Holyfield, however, may not have had the benefit of repeated replays of the punch, which clearly showed that Norris fell awkwardly with much of his weight on a twisted knee. And a ringside doctor examined Norris and said his knee definitely had been injured.

But, of course, the question still remains why would Tyson risk fouling the light-hitting Norris, who was as much as a 12-1 underdog. In addition, the fight was crucial to Tyson's bid to reestablish himself as a drawing card again in an effort to climb out of some 20 million dollars in debt.

Holyfield, however, may not have had the benefit of repeated replays of the punch, which clearly showed that Norris fell awkwardly with much of his weight on a twisted knee. And a ringside doctor examined Norris and said his knee definitely had been injured.

It surprised the guy and he fell. When the guy got up he wasn't wobbly or anything like that, his eyes weren't rolled back up in his head or anything like that," said Holyfield, who's career is testimony that he would have to be carried out on a stretcher to concede anything

"On one side, there was a team who had to make all the running, and on the other there was a side who could settle for a draw, and who therefore tried to contain things and then strike on the counter."

"At the beginning, I thought they were better. We weren't aggressive enough and didn't press their defenders. We were too tense."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

As for the lapse which let Dennis Wise through, Zaccheroni said: "It was exceedingly careless. It seems that we have to do extraordinary things in order to score, but other teams..."

What impressed the Italian most about his opponents was "their determination and their tenacity. But certainly, the two men up front, (Tore Andre) Flo and (Gianfranco) Zola, worked very hard."

"It's massacred himself," he added. "He was going after every ball, keeping possession, making space and coming back to defend."

As for his team's general performance, he said: "I don't know what I can criticise them for, they tried everything possible to win against a good team who defended well and who proved they are very dangerous on the break."

Commenting on Tuesday night's match, the Zaccheroni claimed that Chelsea played an essentially defensive game, and played it well.

The Italian coach also said his team would not be playing for a draw next week against Hertha, claiming it would not be the English thing to do.

"Matches can finish in a draw, but to start one with the aim of getting a draw can be a dangerous thing to do. So we'll be going out to win."

Viali understood the problem by his fellow countrymen here.

"It's probably become very difficult for Milan now because Galatasaray can finish third in the group and qualify for the UEFA Cup if they win again. So it won't be easy for Milan," he said.

"But we will be playing our game because in England, there isn't this kind of mentality where people go onto the pitch just to take it easy. Our fans wouldn't be happy, and our club management would be even less."

Viali also spared a thought for his tough, controversial skipper.

"Dennis doesn't score many goals," he said. "It could be a vital goal, it could be a meaningless goal if we don't get a point at least against Berlin."

"But of course, if we go through, Dennis Wise the captain scoring a great goal at San Siro makes him the best person to do that."

"As a captain, he's had a quite difficult time over the past week because of the sending-off in Liverpool. I think he deserves it."

Meanwhile, Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni was left to rue a defensive error which cost his team victory but said he wouldn't be praying for a mira-

Asia Cup hockey may be held in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 27: Malaysia has offered to host this year's Asia Cup hockey championship in place of Pakistan due to security fears there following this month's coup, officials said Wednesday.

"At the beginning, I thought they were better. We weren't aggressive enough and didn't press their defenders. We were too tense."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."

"A defensive error made it all square and after that we just didn't have the physical or mental strength to come back."

"But we gradually improved and we did some good things. In the second half, Bierhoff scored a great goal but we couldn't hold onto the lead."