

## Werner, Vladimir in WC TT finals

ZHONGSHAN, China, Oct 30: Austrian Werner Schlager and Vladimir Samsonov of Belarus reached the finals of the 1999 World Cup men's table tennis Saturday setting the stage for an all-European final, reports AFP.

World number one Samsonov pulled out all stops in an exciting semifinal match against Zoran Primorac, beating the Czech 21-19, 24-22, 16-21, 21-7, to end Saturday's play.

In Sunday's final, Samsonov will attempt to revenge a first round Group B loss to Schlager who trounced Swede Jorgen Persson in the other semifinal match at Xiaolan Stadium, 21-15, 22-20, 21-10.

Six Europeans made the final eight at the tournament, a strong turn around from last August's World Championships in the Netherlands where China won all the gold and silver medals offered.

Liu Guoqi, China's Atlanta Olympic gold medalist and reigning world champion was eliminated in Saturday's quarterfinals by Persson who came away with a 19-21, 21-19, 15-21, 21-16, 21-19 win in probably the most exciting match of the tournament for the home crowd.

In Saturday's quarter finals, Schlager beat Jan Ove Waldner of Sweden 22-21, 21-15, 17-21, 21-18. Samsonov beat Koji Matsushita of Japan 21-8, 21-9, 21-7 and Croatian Zoran Primorac beat Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium, 21-19, 21-14, 21-17.

The winner of Sunday's final will take home 40,000 dollars, while a total of 130,000 dollars was up for grabs at the tournament, being run for its 19th year.

## Milutinovic parts with MetroStars

SECAUCUS, New Jersey, Oct 30: After a disastrous season that included a Major League Soccer record 12-game losing streak, the New York-New Jersey MetroStars Friday bid farewell to coach Bora Milutinovic, reports AFP.

Vice-president and general manager Charlie Stillitano, whose job also has been rumored to be in jeopardy, promoted assistant Fernando Clavijo to interim coach and will consider him for the permanent position.

"After numerous and lengthy discussions, Bora and I have concluded that this decision is in everyone's best interest," Stillitano said. "We are sad to see Bora leave, but I wish him the very best in his future endeavors and thank him for his efforts this past season."

Milutinovic, a Yugoslavian, has earned a reputation as a quick-fix coach after guiding four different nations, including the United States, to World Cup berths.

He couldn't fix the MetroStars, and was ousted with a year remaining on his contract.

The MetroStars were last in the MLS with 15 points and a 7-25 record. Three of those wins came in the last four games of the season.

Milutinovic was the fifth head coach of the MetroStars, the most of any team in the four-year history of the league.

"My only regret is that we were unable to meet the objectives that both the team and I had in mind when we started this project," he said.

Milutinovic, 54, guided Team USA to a stunning second-round appearance as the host country in the 1994 World Cup, highlighted by an upset of pre-tournament favorite Colombia.

He has compiled an 8-6-3 record in World Cup matches and has led the United States to its first CONCACAF Gold Cup title in 1991 and the US Cup title in 1992.



Sedan's Sielenu Ndeiefi (L) and Lyon's Serge Blanc are airborne while in pursuit of the ball during their French First Division encounter at Sedan on October 29. — AFP photo

## Lyon leaders until now

PARIS, Oct 30: Lyon hung on to top spot in the French league on Saturday after losing 2-0 at promoted Sedan, but wins on Saturday for Auxerre, Bordeaux or Paris Saint Germain would see them drop down the table, reports AFP.

Pius N'Diaye and Pierre Deblock found the net in the 21st and 90 minutes to bring Lyon's third defeat of the season in 13 matches.

Sedan once again looked good on their own pitch and have now won five out of their six matches there though Lyon had the early chance when Sedan keeper Nicolas Sachy had to deflect a shot from Patrice Carteron.

Sedan responded through Olivier Quint, well served by Deblock, who shot on to the post.

Cameroon's N'Diaye finally put Sedan ahead with a lob following good work from Cedric Mionnet who managed to get the better of Lyon's central defence.

Lyon hit back with two freekicks from Philippe Violle but both went into the defensive wall.

After the break, Jacek Bak had two chances as Bernard Lambe's men tried to put the pressure on for an equalizer.

Sachy was kept busy by Steed Malbranque, first from a shot and then by a header which hit the bar. Sedan weren't passive, however, and Lyon keeper Gregory Coupet just managed to foil an attempt by Deblock.

Deblock finally got past the Lyon defence. Set up by Norwegian striker Geir Frigard, the midfielder got the better of Coupet on the edge of the box and scored into an empty goal to put Sedan up to provisional sixth place.

Monaco moved up to second spot a point behind Lyon with a

3-0 win at Nantes. Marco Simone hit the first in the 9th minute giving the principality side a 1-0 lead at half-time.

After the break David Trezeguet hit the second for Monaco in the 63rd minute for

his 10th goal of the season to lead the scoring charts on his own, and Ludovic Gully got the third in the 87th.

Nantes suffered their sixth consecutive defeat and dropped into the relegation zone.

## STANDINGS

French First Division table after games played Friday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Lyon	13	7	3	3	15	10	24
Monaco	12	7	2	3	27	12	23
Auxerre	11	7	2	2	19	13	23
Bordeaux	12	6	3	3	21	16	21
Paris Saint Germain	12	6	3	3	18	14	21
Sedan	13	6	1	6	20	23	19
Metz	12	4	6	2	16	9	18
Marseille	12	4	5	3	15	12	17
Rennes	12	4	4	4	19	18	17
Saint Etienne	12	4	4	4	13	17	16
Strasbourg	12	4	4	4	13	17	16
Bastia	12	3	5	4	15	18	14
Lens	12	4	2	6	8	14	14
Nancy	12	3	3	6	17	18	12
Montpellier	12	3	3	6	14	19	12
Nantes	13	4	0	9	13	19	12
Troyes	12	4	0	8	10	17	12
Le Havre	12	2	4	6	11	20	10



Nantes' Charles Devineau (R) and John Riise of Monaco battle for possession during their French First Division clash at Nantes on October 29. — AFP photo

## Dutch league Ajax taste defeat

AMSTERDAM, Oct 30: An injury time free kick by Roda JC Kerkrade defender Mark Luypers sent leaders Ajax Amsterdam to their first defeat of the Dutch league season on Friday, reports Reuters.

Roda's 2-1 win was their first league success in 21 years of matches in Amsterdam.

Aron Winter opened the score for Ajax with his first championship goal of the season. He found the net in the 67th minute with a close-range diving header from a corner.

Roda replied with a well deserved equaliser five minutes later when Bob Peeters finished off a perfect Bernard Tchoutang cross with a powerful header.

One minute into injury time Tchoutang broke through the Ajax defence and was brought down just outside the penalty box by newly-signed Romanian defender Christian Chivu.

Chivu was sent off for a professional foul and Luypers took the free kick, curled the ball neatly around the wall and past goalkeeper Fred Grim.

Ajax still head the standings, one point clear of PSV Eindhoven, who have two games in hand.

RSV visit AZ Alkmaar on Sunday.

## Tyson's earnings returned

LAS VEGAS, Oct 30: Mike Tyson escaped punishment from Nevada boxing officials Friday but they strongly suggested that he take his show on the road after ruling that the former heavyweight champion could keep his nearly 8.8 million dollars purse from his one round bout with Orlin Norris, reports Reuters.

"He should pack his bags and not fight in Las Vegas in the future," said Lorenzo Fertitta, a member of the Nevada State Athletic Commission (NSAC) during the hearing to review the latest bizarre conclusion to a Tyson fight.

The NSAC had withheld Tyson's purse pending its official review of the bout on October 23, which ended after the first round when Norris could not continue due to a knee injury he suffered falling from a Tyson punch delivered after the bell.

The commission, which declared the fight a "no contest," could have fined or suspended Tyson. But upon review, it felt referee Richard Steele's deduction of two points from Tyson's score for the foul at the time was "an appropriate and adequate response."

"The purse was held up because they wanted to review the fight to see what happened," state athletic director Marc Ratner said.

But the commissioners, who had previously suspended Tyson for the Evander Holyfield ear-biting incident, said all of Tyson's actions would come under scrutiny when he applies to renew his Nevada boxing licence next year.

"If and when he reapplies for a licence for 2000, we'll have a lot of questions to ask," said NSAC chairman Elias Ghanem. "I'm not prepared to have any hoodlums fight in Nevada. I'd like to send a message that these things will not be tolerated in Nevada. We'll address these issues at an appropriate time."

Tyson did not attend the hearing and was represented by his promoter, Dan Goosen, and two attorneys.

But the message Tyson receives should be loud and clear. Glenn Carano, one of the four members of the commission at the hearing, said it might be advisable if Tyson "lights elsewhere to see if he can bring a fight to a natural conclusion without controversy."



Eintracht Frankfurt's Bachirou Salou (L) is under pressure from Alexander Klitzpera of Arminia Bielefeld during their Bundesliga fixture at Bielefeld on October 29. The match ended 1-1. — AFP photo

## Suggestion to reduce IOC bosses' reigns



LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Oct 30: The near 20-year tenure of International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch will never be allowed to happen again if recommendations of an IOC reform group are accepted, reports AFP.

The group, ordered to clean up the IOC after the Salt Lake City bribery scandal that led to the expulsion of six members and the resignation of four others, called on Saturday for a maximum 12-year term for any future IOC president, with no chance of re-election.

The proposal was one of a series of sweeping changes that will be put to the full IOC membership at a special session here next month.

Other major changes include putting a maximum age limit of 70 on all members, banning all future visits to bidding cities by IOC members, greater involvement of athletes within the IOC and greater power for National Olympic Committees in the

running of the Olympics. In a bid to ensure the new age limit rule would pass, the reform group proposed that it would only apply to new members.

"If we did not do that there would be no chance of getting the session to accept it. No one is going to vote himself out of a job," said one member of the IOC 2000 Commission.

"Public opinion want the IOC to be younger. I am in favour of the age limit," said future presidential hopeful Jacques Rogge, who is already campaigning to win the presidency when Samaranch stands down in 2001.

The term limit for the IOC president had originally been put forward at simply eight years but after a heated debate by Commission members it was agreed to change it to eight years with the possibility of being re-elected for another four years.

IOC vice-president Kevin GOSPER was clearly not happy with the extra four year plan.

In today's world eight years

is a very reasonable time. Even the United States of America contains it's president for an eight-year term," said Gosper. But Samaranch insisted that there would be no other alterations to the near 60 changes to be approved here this weekend before being put to the full membership next month.

"The decision to ban visits to bidding cities will not be watered down. It must pass," said the IOC president during the morning break.

But the former Spanish ambassador knows he will have a battle on his hand to pass the ban.

"Without the vote there is no point in being an IOC member," said one African member.

"How can you vote on a city without ever having been there. It is nonsense."

A temporary ban was put in place late last year, which meant the decision, who should host the 2008 Winter Olympic was based simply on airport from the IOC evaluation committee.



IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch (R) and legendary Russian pole vaulter Sergei Bubka chat in Lausanne, Switzerland yesterday. — AFP photo

## TV Guide

Sunday 31st October

(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

## BBC

6:00 BBC World News  
Headlines 6:30 This Week  
7:00 BBC World News 7:30  
World Focus: The Travel Show  
8:00 BBC World News  
8:30 World Focus: Simpson's World 9:00  
BBC World News 9:30  
USA Direct 10:00 BBC  
World News 10:30 BBC  
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