

Sport

Franz for changes

COLOGNE, Germany, Nov 5 (AFP) - German football great Franz Beckenbauer, who is vice president of the German Football Federation, wants changes to the Champions League so that matches are no longer bunched together on a weekly basis.

Three European Cup matches in three weeks are too many. We need a reform for next season," Beckenbauer told the Bild newspaper.

"When you have such top teams the fans have a right to see top games. They don't want to see players who are weary and who can't deliver their true form because the physical demands are too heavy."

That's why there need to be changes next season with European Cup matches only every two weeks," added Beckenbauer, who is also president of German champions Bayern Munich.

Aarthie U-18 World chess champ

OROPESA DEL MORE, Spain, Nov 6: India's Aarthie Ramaswamy scored a facile last-round win to keep top seeded Russian Evgeniya Ovod at bay, and claimed the girls' under-18 World Championship title here yesterday, reports PTI.

Former national under-14 champion Aarthie gave India a deserving world crown after the defending girls' U-12 champion Koneru Humpy's challenge was subdued in the final rounds of the world boys' and girls' age-group chess championships.

Humpy, the 1998 world champion and top seed, finished second to claim silver medal - a consolation after the Andhra girl led her category midway through the championships.

Aarthie defeated Wang Yu of China in the final round Friday morning to end a suspense-filled day as the world crown depended on her outright victory.

The Indian was unexpectedly beaten in the penultimate round last night by sixth seed Jana Jakovica of the Czech Republic and was in danger of losing her sole lead to Evgeniya.

The high drama continued as the Russian drew her 10th round game and both the aspirants went into the final round with eight points each.

Evgeniya played excellently to defeat second seed Dana Reznicek in four hours to jump into the lead with nine points to her credit.

At this point, Aarthie was still fighting the battle with the Chinese, but she had a clear goal-win her game and overtake Evgeniya on a better progressive score.

DC Cup soccer

GAZIPUR, Nov 6: Narsingdi District emerged champions in the Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Cup football tournament beating Sherpur District by 3-1 goals at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Rabul netted two goals and Nazmul one for the winners.

Arman of Narsingdi was adjudged best player-of-the-tournament.

Judges picked for Holyfield-Lewis rematch

LAS VEGAS, Nov 6: An all-American group of judges was picked Friday for the Nov 13 rematch between heavyweight champions Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis, reports AP.

Their March bout in New York ended in a controversial draw. Most ringsiders gave Lewis the fight, but the only judge to score the match for Holyfield - the IBF and WBA titlist - was the judge chosen by the IBF.

The referee for the rematch in Las Vegas will be Mitch Halpern, and the judges will be Chuck Giampa, Bill Graham and Jerry Roth, said Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission.

Unlike in New York, the sanctioning groups did not have a role, he said.

"We did not pick them with sanctioning organisations. We picked them," Ratner said, noting that is required under Nevada law.

All four are US citizens licensed by Nevada, and have a total of 220 world championship fights among them, including 60 for Halpern, he said.

Holyfield will meet Lewis, the WBC champ, at the Thomas and Mack Center.

Each is guaranteed \$15 million. In the first fight, Holyfield was guaranteed \$15 million and Lewis \$10 million.

Their March 13 fight at Madison Square Garden prompted a New York investigation, and the IBF judge also testified before a federal grand jury in Newark, New Jersey, that indicted top IBF officials this week in a bribery scandal regarding rankings.

No charges were brought regarding the judge, Evgeniya Williams of Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Williams, who filed for bankruptcy before the fight, told the Newark grand jury that no one attempted to sway her decision, her lawyer has said.

She judged the fight 115-113 for Holyfield. English judge Jerry O'Connell scored it 115-113, while South African judge Christodoulou favored Lewis 116-113.

After watching a replay, Williams testified in New York that she would have scored it differently had photographers not been in her view.

Tributes keep flowing



UNDATED, Nov 6 (PTI/AFP) - Indian bowling legend Kapil Dev Friday paid tributes to West Indian fast bowler great Malcolm Marshall with skipper Sachin Tendulkar describing the death as a great loss to cricket lovers world over.

"Marshall, who died in Barbados on Thursday after losing a battle with cancer, could bowl under any conditions and was a match-winner. Indian coach Kapil Dev said in Rajkot after the first one-day tie against New Zealand.

"He could be very devastating. It is a great shock to me as we have played cricket against each other for 15 years," Kapil Dev whose career ran parallel with the Barbadian said. "I met him during the World Cup before he fell ill. I knew he was serious, but didn't realize it was so bad," he said.

Kapil Dev's international career ran from 1978 to 1994 while Marshall, who also made his debut in 1978, played his last Test in 1991.

Marshall, who achieved the all-rounder double of 1000 runs and 100 wickets in 49 Tests and scored 1810 runs and took 376 wickets from 81 matches, had proved his worth time and again in the formidable Caribbean squad of the '80s.

"He was an excellent team man, very unselfish. He worked for the team, batted lower down and did well for West Indies. He'd come on to bowl at any time - no wicket was too slow for him. He was a great servant and I will miss him dearly. The Tina Turner song sums him up: 'Simply the Best'."

John Emburey's two matches as England captain in 1988 were against the West Indies - and he suffered from Marshall's arts.

At Lord's he claimed 10 wickets in the match and in the next Test at Old Trafford he buckled England for 93, taking seven for 22 and rushed the match to its conclusion before some traditional Manchester rain set in.

Emburey said: "I'm saddened by the news. Everyone was aware that he was very ill, but it still doesn't prepare for the shock of someone passing away against whom you have competed with so hard and so well as Malcolm did."

"What will really be missed is his competitiveness and his smile that he brought to the game. He enjoyed his cricket both for West Indies and Hampshire, and he'll be missed all around the world because his input was tremendous."

Malcolm was up there with the best fast bowlers and he'd probably have got 400 wickets if it had not been for the other great West Indies fast bowlers taking lots of wickets themselves.

Managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, Ali Bacher, also praised Marshall.

"Malcolm was a brilliant fast bowler and an outstanding ambassador for the game of cricket," he said.

"He helped in no small manner to realise the talent of such players as Lance Klusener and Shaun Pollock, while playing for Natal during the early part of this decade," he said.

Bacher added, "We, in South African cricket, are shattered at his passing away."

Former West Indian captain Clive Lloyd Friday paid tribute to Malcolm Marshall saying he was "simply the best."

Lloyd said: "I'm saddened by his death, someone so young. He was a great friend and great cricketer."

"I think he was one of the best fast bowlers West Indies produced, a great thinker, and to take 376 Test wickets when you have three other great fast bowlers working with you at the same time has got to be one of the greatest achievements ever."

"I still can't get over it. It's a great loss. We worked together, he started his career more or less under me and then we went into management and coaching together and I got to know him even better."

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His fitness and desire to win were brilliant. He had a great cricket brain, used to work people out and set his own fields accordingly.

"He didn't always rely on pace to get people out. He was a magnificent performer. He'll be sorely missed."

Marshall's success taught coaches around the world, including those as innovative as Bob Woolmer, that a bowler's action does not necessarily determine his ability to swing the ball.

"Malcolm had a profound effect on cricket," said Woolmer. "He proved that an open-chested action does not prevent a bowler from moving the ball both ways and that a small man could generate great pace."

"He changed the coaching of cricket in a profound way and he was great at imparting his knowledge of the game to others and his legacy will be those players passing on that knowledge."

"Shaun Pollock rang me in tears when he heard the news and he was also extremely helpful to Lance Klusener at Natal, where he is still revered after his four years there."

It is a view shared by Bob Cottam, who is currently England's specialist bowling coach but has also helped bowlers like Allan Donald and Andrew Caddick during their careers.

"My schoolboy idols were Brian Statham and Fred Trueman but in later years Malcolm Marshall was the one bowler I would travel to watch," said Cottam.

"He had a big, big heart and would bowl all day for you in any conditions - he just wanted to fill in that end wickets column day in and day out."

"I loved to talk bowling with him. With his open-chested action he differed from the coaching manuals but from my point of view as a coach, that was great because it showed you there were other alternatives. Cricket will miss him hugely."

Ex-England batsman and Hampshire captain Robin Smith who played with the fearsome paceman in county cricket and against him in the international game, said: "It's desperate news. Malcolm was respected the whole world over and he's going to be badly missed."

"He played his cricket in the right spirit and he was a battler."

"Malcolm had a great deal of affection for Hampshire where he was worked as a coach in recent seasons, and I'm particularly sad he won't be around to see the new era we're beginning at the club with a new ground and the signing of players like Shane Warne."

Japan qualify for Sydney

TOKYO, Nov 6: Japan rebounded from a 1-0 first half deficit and defeated Kazakhstan 3-1 Saturday to qualify for the Sydney Olympics next year with three wins against no defeats in the Asian final qualifying round, reports AP.

The victory assured the Japanese national U-22 of clinching the top spot in the Group C three-nation Asian final qualifying round and winning an Olympic berth.

Japan lead the group with 9 points and Kazakhstan stand second with four with one match left. That gives Japan an unbeatable advantage even if they lose their last match against Thailand next week.

Japan beat Kazakhstan 2-0 at an away match and Thailand 3-1 at home.

Kazakhstan led 1-0 in the first half as Maxim Shevchenko headed in the first goal in the 29th minute before more than 55,000 spectators at the national stadium in downtown Tokyo.

In the 25th minute of the second half, Tomiyuki Hirase headed in an equalizer after receiving a pass from Hidetoshi Nakata of Italian Serie A soccer team Perugia.

Hirase received a pass from Shunsuke Nakamura and scored his second goal of the match in the 41st minute.

One minute before the end, Nakamura converted a free-kick for Japan's third goal.

The Japanese team played aggressively, outshooting Kazakhstan 21-3.

For the final qualifying round, nine Asian teams have been drawn into three groups. Each group's top team qualifies for the Olympics.

Japan is scheduled to play against Thailand in Bangkok on Nov 13.

Thailand stands third with one point with one draw and two losses.

German squad for friendly

FRANKFURT, Nov 6: A knee injury has ruled out Germany's rising teenage star Sebastian Deisler from taking part in the German squad to face Norway in a friendly match on November 14, reports Reuters.

Werder Bremen defender Frank Baumann is the surprise inclusion in coach Eich Ribbeck's squad, which contains few changes from the one for Germany's goalless Euro 2000 qualifier against Turkey last month.

The 24-year-old is the only debutant in the squad.

Deisler, Hertha Berlin teammate, Dariusz Wozniak also has knee trouble and he will tell team coach Ribbeck later on Friday whether he can play.

Bayer Leverkusen's Jens Nowotny and Borussia Dortmund's Christian Woerns both return to the squad from injury.

This will be Germany's last game this year and they are planning five friendlies in the run-up to the European Championship in the Netherlands and Belgium next summer.

These will include playing Netherlands in Amsterdam on February 23, Croatia in Zagreb on March 29 and Switzerland on April 26 to celebrate the German FA's centenary.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Oliver Kahn (Bayern Munich), Jens Lehmann (Borussia Dortmund).

Defence: Markus Babel (Bayern Munich), Frank Baumann (Werder Bremen), Thomas Linke (Bayern Munich), Lothar Matthaeus (Bayern Munich), Jens Nowotny (Bayer Leverkusen), Christian Woerns (Borussia Dortmund).

Midfield: Dietmar Hamann (Liverpool), Jens Jeremies (Bayern Munich), Bernd Schneider (Bayer Leverkusen), Mehmet Scholl (Bayern Munich), Dariusz Wozniak (Hertha Berlin), Christian Ziege (Middlesbrough).

Forwards: Oliver Bierhoff (AC Milan), Marco Bode (Werder Bremen), Carsten Jancker (Bayern Munich), Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen), Oliver Neuville (Bayer Leverkusen).

Malaysia holds walk for the nation

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 6: About two million people countrywide took part today in a "Walk For The Nation" to support Malaysia's bid to host the 2006 Asian Games, according to official figures, reports AFP.

The event was launched in the capital by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who estimated the turnout at more than two million.

"We hope that with the enthusiasm and support of the people towards this effort, the council (Olympic Council of Asia) will seriously look into Malaysia's bid to be the host," the state Bernama news agency quoted him as saying.

Mahathir said Malaysia's chances were bright since it was the only Southeast Asian applicant. Indonesia has withdrawn its bid.

Others seeking to host the games are Hong Kong, India, Qatar, Syria and Uzbekistan. The Olympic Council of Asia will vote in November next year on the venue.

Youth and Sports Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said a similar "Walk For The Nation" campaign would be held shortly before that meeting. He said Indonesia had agreed to support Malaysia's bid for the games.

The last Asian bid was held in Bangkok last year and the next will be in Pusan, South Korea, in 2002.

Malaysia has hosted a number of top sporting events, including the Commonwealth Games in 1998 and the Malaysian Grand Prix last month. It will stage the World Cup of Golf later this month.



A melee in front of the Kazakhstan goal during their Olympic qualifier against Japan in Tokyo yesterday.

Lennart still worried

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, Nov 6: UEFA president Lennart Johansson, who turned 70 on Friday, told Reuters he feared there will be renewed attempts in the future to set up a breakaway European Super League.

Johansson, who helped see off a threat by marketing group Media Partners a year ago, said he feared another challenge to UEFA's position was inevitable - even though UEFA expanded the Champions' League from 16 to 32 teams this season and vastly increased the prize money on offer to the top clubs to over 800 million Swiss francs.

"A Europe-wide league would drain money from other domestic leagues. A league where all the money is gathered is a threat to solidarity," he added.

Johansson, who intends staying on as UEFA president until his term of office expires in 2002 when he is 72, also returned to his old hobby-horse of the Bosman ruling saying he would fight to overturn the decision that effectively changed the face of soccer in 1995.

The Bosman ruling originally made players whose contracts had expired into free agents if they transferred from one European country to another.

It now includes all players in the European Union including those moving from one club in their country to another.

Johansson has been a staunch opponent of the ruling and affirmed his opposition to the law which he said effectively means clubs are not rewarded for developing and training players.

"They tend to forget where all the talented players are created. We must stop that, otherwise there will be no soccer in the future," Johansson said.

"It is only reasonable that the clubs receive some sort of compensation from the bigger clubs. Bosman was not good for us. We have to stop this trend of loving money."

"Player's salaries are more written about than their performances," he added.

Johansson may not be fighting a losing battle as there have been recent whispers that the European Union are willing to have another look at their controversial decision.

He also took a swipe at FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who beat Johansson in last year's race for the presidency of football's world governing body.

Earlier this year Blatter proposed the World Cup should be played every other year, but although he has now gone back

on this idea, Johansson is totally opposed to the notion.

"We like the European Championship and to have two big events in the same year would be like celebrating Christmas and midsummer at the same time," Johansson said.

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Spurs complain to UEFA

NYON, Switzerland, Nov 6: Tottenham lodged an official protest here Friday over Kaiserslautern's last minute team change before Thursday night's UEFA Cup second round, second leg in Germany, reports AFP.

Competition rules dictate that the German side should have handed in their starting line-up on a timesheet to match officials an hour-and-a-quarter before the game, with Spurs handing in theirs 15 minutes later.

Tottenham boss George Graham was angry that Kaiserslautern manager Otto Rehhagel changed his line-up 40 minutes before kick-off after apparently seeing that David Ginola had been left on the bench.

Rehhagel had already submitted his teamsheet and had included Martin Wagner to mark Ginola. But Graham named Ginola substitute and when Kaiserslautern discovered this they immediately replaced Wagner with Rathino.

Kaiserslautern went on to score two injury-time goals to knock Spurs out of Europe 2-1 on aggregate.

And Graham fumed: "I'd liked to think UEFA will do something after what went on last night so that it doesn't happen again. In future, when the officials receive team sheets they shouldn't be changed."

A statement from European football's governing body confirmed: "Tottenham Hotspur FC have lodged a protest with UEFA following a dispute concerning the submission of official team line-ups for the UEFA Cup second round, second leg match against FC Kaiserslautern in Germany."

"The two teams submitted the official form containing their team line-ups to the match referee within the stipulated deadline, ie 75 minutes before the kick-off for Kaiserslautern and 60 minutes for Tottenham, in accordance with Article 10, paragraph three of the 1999/2000 UEFA Cup regulations."

"However 40 minutes before the kick-off, Kaiserslautern requested authorisation from the referee to change their team line-up. The player Rathino was included in the team to start the match, and his team-mate Wagner became a substitute. Tottenham were informed immediately, and the English club expressed their displeasure about this change."

UEFA say their Control and Disciplinary Body will deal with the matter at a meeting on November 9.

However, that is the same day as Kaiserslautern's third round, second leg tie after they were drawn with French club Lens. The German team are away in the first leg on November 25.

Spurs club secretary Peter Barnes remarked: "We have put in a protest in the form of a written complaint, just as George Graham said we would be doing."

"We don't really know what to expect and we shall have to wait and see."

Snyder pulls through

QUEBEC, Nov 6 (AP): Defending champion Tara Snyder is making a habit of going the distance in the Bell Challenge.

Snyder saved a match point and blew numerous opportunities before she finally prevailed 2-6, 6-0, 7-5 Friday over Cara Black in a quarterfinal match.

"The tournament director just called me. 'Three-Set Snyder.' He said that it takes me longer to get hyped up," said the 106th-ranked American, who has now played five straight three-set encounters at the tournament dating back to last year.

"I think I like the battle of it and competing too much. In the first set, I played way too conservative and wasn't really into it. Then I was able to get into a rhythm and start hitting my shots."

In the other quarterfinal played Friday afternoon, third-seeded Chanda Rubin survived a brief lapse in the second set before beating qualifier Mashona Washington 6-0, 7-5.

On Friday night, second-seeded Amy Frazier beat Justine Henin of Belgium 3-6, 7-6, 7-5 - and fourth-seeded Jennifer Capriati beat fellow American Lisa Raymond, the No. 6 seed, 6-4, 6-2.

Capriati and Frazier will meet in one semifinal Saturday. Rubin and Snyder in the other.

After losing the first set in 33 minutes, Snyder won the next eight games. After the eighth game of the third set, the two were tied 4-4.

Black then held serve and had a match point at 30-40, but her forehead return sailed long. "She was serving hard and deep and I wasn't really ready for it," said Black, whose brothers Wayne and Byron play on the men's tour.

"It's hard to carry on playing after that match point, and hard to fight again, especially when you give her more confidence."

Snyder, who beat top-seeded Amanda Coetzer on Wednesday night, pumped her fist after saving the match point and took advantage of her second chance.

"For me, screaming at myself is a relief. I think I would play worse if I didn't do that," said Snyder, who advanced to her first semifinal of the year and beat Black for the first time in four attempts.



Hansa Rostock's Timo Lange takes a left-foot shot to score the first goal against Hamburg during their Bundesliga clash at Rostock on November 5.

Bundesliga

Rostock hold Hamburg

COLOGNE, Nov 6: A 3-3 draw at Hansa Rostock was sufficient for Hamburg to move to the top of the Bundesliga Friday while Duisburg remain the only club without a win this season after losing 3-0 at Freiburg, reports AFP.

Hamburg are level on 20 points with Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund, both of whom play on Saturday, while Bayer Leverkusen are fourth on 19.

Rostock threatened to walk away with the game in the first half hour when Timo Lange and Steffen Baumgart put goals on the board in the opening five minutes.

"When you look at the opening 30 minutes we could have led three- or four-nil," Rostock coach Andreas Zachhuber said.

"At the end though when Hamburg threw everything at us we were under pressure and have to feel satisfied with the 3-3 draw. It was a great game though for the fans and was fun to watch."

Hans-Jorg Butt began Hamburg's comeback in the 39th minute. His converted penalty put the Hanseatic side back in the hunt. It was Butt's fifth goal this season and, despite being a goalkeeper, makes him one of the Bundesliga's top goalscorers.

"At some point he'll miss a penalty," Hamburg coach Frank Pagelsdorf growled with satisfaction.

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