

Emerson  
sues ACB

PERTH, Nov 11: Controversial cricket umpire Ross Emerson, one of the men at the centre of the Sri Lankan chumping controversy, has launched legal action against the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), reports AS.

Emerson has surprised the ACB by launching a defamation case against board chairman Denis Rogers.

"We will be defending it vigorously," ACB chief executive Malcolm Speed said Wednesday. The case is scheduled to be heard in the Perth Supreme Court on November 22.

Emerson was suspended from umpiring in February after it was revealed he was on sick leave from his job in the West Australian state government.

In January he called Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan for throwing in a one-day game in Adelaide, three years after no-balling the same player in a match in Brisbane.

Last week, Emerson was part of a group which sent a tape of Pakistani bowler Shoaib Akhtar to the ACB questioning whether Akhtar's slingshot action was legal.

BFF AGM  
postponed

Annual General Meeting of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), scheduled for November 15, has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a BFF press release.

A fresh date for the AGM will be announced later.

Gazipur soccer  
tournament

GAZIPUR, Nov 11: A football tournament, organised by Gazipur Players' Welfare Association (GPWA), begins at local stadium here tomorrow, reports BSS.

General Secretary of Jatitya Samik League Ahsanullah Master, MP, will inaugurate the tournament as the chief guest.

Sixteen clubs will take part in the league.

In the opening match, Gazipur District Sports Institute will take on Mankon Sporting Club at 3 pm.

Silverwood  
called up

BLOEMFONTEIN, Nov 11 (Internet report): Yorkshire paceman Chris Silverwood, currently on duty for England 'A' in New Zealand, will be flying out to South Africa "as soon as possible" to link up with Nassar Hussain's injury-hit senior squad.

With three key members of the SA tour party, Darren Gough, Dean Headley and Andrew Flintoff - battling to shake off nagging injuries and the clock ticking down to the first cricket Test, the team management after consultation with selection convenor David Graveney on Wednesday night have decided to "cover" themselves by adding Silverwood to their 17-strong playing staff.

According to Graveney, Silverwood, who has played one Test - against Zimbabwe in '95 - will be available for selection for the tourists' final warm-up match against a combined Gauteng-Northern XI at Centurion Park from November 18 to 21.

While Silverwood's stay may be brief, a decision on whether or not they retain the enlarged squad will be taken after the first Test - at this stage the tourists feel it imperative they have back-up for their crippled attack.

Both are struggling with minor injuries which as coach Duncan Fletcher points out were supposed to have cleared up in a couple of days.

"It's frustrating," he said. "If a chap breaks a leg or something like that you can say that it's boy you're on your bicycle, but with this sort of thing you don't know where you stand."

England duo to meet Queen

BLOEMFONTEIN, Nov 11 (Internet report): Andrew Caddick and Alex Tudor will break off from England's tour of South Africa to meet the Queen during a specially arranged coaching clinic in Johannesburg.

The two fast bowlers will coach local schoolchildren in the Alexandra township before being presented to Her Majesty, who is in South Africa for a conference of Commonwealth leaders.

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook will also be present alongside Ngonde Balfour, South Africa's Minister for Sport and Recreation, United Cricket Board of South Africa president Raymond White and Dr Ali Bacher, the Board's managing director.

The Alexandra Oval, where the coaching clinic will take place, was built on the site of a rubbish tip several years ago and is the only grass area where township inhabitants can play cricket.

BAF athletics

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McManaman to be missing

'Battle of Britain' tomorrow

LONDON, Nov 11: Real Madrid midfielder Steve McManaman is almost certainly out of Saturday's Euro 2000 play-off first leg against Scotland in Glasgow, reports AFP.

McManaman suffered a recurrence of his long-standing groin problem in training on Wednesday and had to limp out of the action to receive treatment. He is officially rated as "extremely doubtful" for Saturday's game at Hampden Park and was expected to be ruled out later on Thursday.

Coach Kevin Keegan is still hoping McManaman, who was a contender to play in the left wing-back role, will be available for selection for Wednesday's return fixture at Wembley.

However, with Ray Parlour also ruled out of Saturday's game to receive treatment on a hamstring injury, the Keegan's midfield options have been reduced.

With a three-man defence being his most likely option, Keegan looks set to deploy David Beckham in an unaccustomed right wing-back role, while choosing between either Phil Neville or Steve Guppy on the left flank.

Meanwhile, Scotland manager Craig Brown said on Wednesday he was confident of having a fully fit squad to choose from for Saturday's first leg at Hampden Park.

After losing Celtic's Paul Lambert because of concussion, Brown had feared Rangers pair Colin Hendry and Barry Ferguson as well as Hwats striker Gary McSwegan would also be missing.

Hendry's knee problem has sidelined him since last month's international with Bosnia at Broomfield, meaning he has been without competing action in the lead up to the European Championship play-offs with England.

Ferguson has needed pain-killing injections to ease a rib problem in the past fortnight, while McSwegan limped out of hearts' 1-1 draw with Motherwell on Saturday with a hamstring strain.

But after a full training session on Tuesday, Brown is confident there will be no withdrawals from his 23-man pool ahead of Saturday's first leg with England at Hampden Park.

He said: "Our injury problems are clearing up rapidly. Gary McSwegan is taking a full part in training as is Colin Hendry and Callum Davidson, who also had a slight hamstring problem."

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"Hopefully we will see every one declared fit at the end of the session today."

The pressure training on Colin's injury starts today because we're very anxious to confirm his fitness."

Brown will, however, keep the details of his team for this weekend to himself in keeping with his England counterpart Kevin Keegan's decision not to make his line-up public until match day.

"It seems to be that Michael Owen is fit to partner Alan Shearer, but that's only really hearsay. Kevin is not going to disclose his team and that's only natural," said Brown.

"We have got contingency plans ready for how they will play, but it's how we play which will determine whether we're successful or not."

"I don't have the side I will play in my mind yet, there are still one or two question marks in certain positions, but like Kevin I think it will be unwise to disclose my side too early."

Brown revealed that Lambert, who lost four teeth in a collision with Rangers' Jorg Albertz in Sunday's Old Firm clash at Ibrox, met up with the squad on Wednesday at their Troon base.

He said: "Paul just came down to wish us well and all the best for the game on Saturday. That shows the atmosphere within the group that we have when something like that happens."

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MEMORABLE  
MATCHES

LONDON, Nov 11 (AP): The oldest match in international soccer, England and Scotland have played each other 108 times since 1872. England have won 44, Scotland 40 and 24 have been tied and England lead 190-168 on goals scored.

Here are some of the highlights:

— 1872: Scotland 0, England 0 at Hamilton Crescent Cricket Ground. A tie although Scotland had a goal disallowed because the referee, or umpire as he was then known, ruled that the ball had gone over the tape, rather than under. The tape acted as the crossbar.

— 1873: Scotland 7, England 2 at Hampden Park. Scotland's best ever win against the English.

— 1928: England 1, Scotland 5 at Wembley. Scotland's "Wembley Wizards", led by star winger Alex James, scored three times and continually pulled the English defense apart.

— 1937: Scotland 1, England 3 at Hampden Park. A British record crowd of 149,547 saw England's win.

— 1955: England 7, Scotland 2 at Wembley. Wolves' Dennis Wilshaw scored four goals and Manchester United's Duncan Edwards, killed in the Munich air crash three years later, became the youngest player to be capped for England at age 18 years, 183 days.

— 1961: England 9, Scotland 3 at Wembley. At one stage it was only 3-2 but Jimmy Greaves scored three goals, and Johnny Haynes and Bobby Smith, each netted two. Shamed Scottish goalkeeper Frank Haffey later emigrated to Australia.

— 1967: England 2, Scotland 3 at Wembley. This came a year after England won the World Cup at the same stadium and the jubilant Scots called themselves the unofficial world champions after this victory, which ended England's unbeaten record since the World Cup triumph.

— 1977: England 1, Scotland 2 at Wembley. Kenny Dalglish hit the winner and the result sparked an invasion of the field by Scottish fans, who ripped up pieces of turf as souvenirs and also tore down the goalposts.

— 1996: England 2, Scotland 0 at Wembley. A spectacular goal by Paul Gascoigne, who lobbed the ball over defender Colin Hendry and volleyed it home, was the highlight of this Euro '96 game, the last of the 108 matches.

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Croatia friendly

Lizarazu ruled out

PARIS, Nov 11: Bayern Munich's French defender Bixente Lizarazu was ruled out Wednesday of the French squad for Saturday's friendly against Croatia at Stade de France, reports AFP.

Lizarazu injured his knee during Saturday's German league match in which Bayern reclaimed top spot with a 1-0 win at SSV Ulm.

French team coach Roger Lemerre has called up Real Madrid's Christian Karembeu to take his place. Karembeu had been overlooked in the original selection in favour of Frederic Dehu of Barcelona.

Belgium friendly  
Nesta declared unfit

ROME, Nov 11: Lazio defender Alessandro Nesta was ruled out of Italy's friendly against Belgium on Wednesday after failing to recover from a knee injury he picked up at the weekend, reports AFP.

Italy, who are preparing for the European championships, are due to meet the joint-hosts of next year's tournament on Saturday at Lecce.

Lazio are, meanwhile, hoping that their skipper will be fit for the derby against AS Roma when the Serie A re-starts in 10 days' time.

Turkish coach confident of qualifying

DUBLIN, Nov 11: Turkey, who face the Republic of Ireland in the first leg of their Euro 2000 play-off here on Saturday, say they deserve to be in the finals after their performance in qualifying, reports AFP.

"After beating Germany 1-0 in the qualifiers at home and then recording a scoreless draw against them in Munich, we really deserve to be in the finals already," said coach Mustafa Denizli.

"But we have to respect this Irish team, especially with players like Roy Keane, Niall Quinn, Denis Irwin and Robbie Keane in the squad."

"Quinn will be a big problem as he is so tall and dangerous in the air. Maybe I will need three men to mark him."

"We would be happy not to lose in Dublin and it would be a bonus if we can return home with an away goal. But it's not going to be easy - even though I'm still confident about the outcome over 180 minutes."

Turkey are hoping central defender Alpay Ozalan, midfielder Abdullahi Ergen and star striker Hakan Sukut recover from colds picked up since they arrived in a Irish capital on Monday.

The return leg is in Bursa next Wednesday with the winners progressing to the finals in Belgium and the Netherlands next summer.

Five-match ban on Jeremies

COLOGNE, Germany, Nov 11: Bayern Munich's defensive midfielder Jens Jeremies was suspended for five games by UEFA Wednesday after he was red carded in last month's Champions League game against PSV Eindhoven, reports AFP.

Jeremies, a German international, has already served one of those games as he missed Bayern's last European fixture against Glasgow Rangers (1-1) but won't be available to play in the competition again until March 14th when Bayern meet Norwegian champions Rosenborg.

Toshack disciplined

MADRID, Nov 11: Beleaguered Real Madrid coach John Toshack has been handed a 6,000 dollar fine by the club's board for criticising his side's goalkeeper, Spanish sports paper AS reported Wednesday, reports AFP.

At the end of the match with Primera Liga leaders Rayo Vallecano, won 3-2 by Real, Welshman Toshack said Real had "a problem in goal" and, the press claims, he fiercely criticised Argentinian goalkeeper Albano Bizarri, who is standing in for injured German keeper Bodo Illigier.

The victory over Rayo Vallecano gave Toshack breathing space after the Spanish media claimed he would be sacked if Real lost.

EU's gesture

BRUSSELS, Nov 11: The European Commission is to help smaller clubs continue the development of young players, the European commissioner with responsibility for sport Viviane Reding said Wednesday after meeting FIFA president Sepp Blatter and UEFA president Lennart Johansson, reports AFP.

Reding said that the Commission was obliged to support the controversial so-called 1995 Bosman Ruling that in effect abolished the transfer market that has kept many smaller clubs in business over the years.

But she added: "That should not prevent us from finding solutions so that small clubs can continue to develop youngsters."

Reding wants UEFA to provide evidence of the negative effects of the Bosman Ruling before letting the Commission, presided over by Italy's Romano Prodi, take the necessary measures.

Johansson has suggested a redistribution of TV rights royalties to help the smaller clubs.

Bosnich understands it

SYDNEY, Nov 11: Manchester United goalkeeper Mark Bosnich said Thursday overseas players would always face problems over national selection, reports AFP.

Both Australia's Harry Kewell and Brazil's Ronaldo are in tugs-of-war between club and country over two friendly internationals to be played Sunday and next Wednesday.

Bosnich, who arrived Wednesday night from England, tried to defuse criticism of the players.

"Players are always going to get grumbles from clubs about the time of the matches and the travel involved. The problem won't go away," he said.

Australian football officials successfully applied to the game's governing body FIFA to ban Kewell from Leeds United's next English Premiership match against Bradford City on Nov 20 after the player failed to answer his international call-up.

Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo said Thursday he would not play Ronaldo in Sunday's international if FIFA prevented him from playing in next Wednesday's international.

Ronaldo's Italian club Inter Milan successfully appealed to FIFA to ban him from playing the second match at Melbourne next Wednesday.

"The players are the meat in

the sandwich in these situations," Bosnich said.

Injured striker John Aloisi of Coventry City, here on a post-mortem trip for the FA Cup sponsors, appealed for Australian coach Frank Farina to organise more matches in Europe where most of the players were based.

Australia missed out on France 98 when Iran came back from two goals down to draw 2-2 and qualify for the 1998 finals.

Bosnich did not train at Thursday's workout, preferring to nurse the hamstring injury he aggravated last week in the match against Leicester.

He is receiving intensive treatment and expects to be fit for Sunday's clash against Brazil at Stadium Australia but will defer a decision on next Wednesday's Melbourne return until after Sunday's game.

Early this season Bosnich was relegated to United's third string keeper but after improving his fitness, he has found his way back into the top job.

"It has been a test of character, being with Manchester United but mine hasn't changed. I just put my head down," he said.

"When you join a major club like United, there's always pressure. You know you're going to be shot at, but fortunately I've only been wounded and not put down."

MARK BOSNICH

"Flying 24 hours to Australia, if done more than once a year, takes a lot out of you," he said.

"It would be great if Farina could arrange about eight games a year with most of them in Europe. It's not the best for our fans but it would be much simpler to play in Europe," he said.

"Australians are highly regarded in Europe as individual players but not as a team because of our World Cup record."

Bosnich, the first Australian goalkeeper to be appointed national captain, said their aim was to qualify for the 2002 World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea.

The biggest objective for us is to get to the World Cup finals, no matter who is appointed as captain. That would silence the doubters," he said.

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French First Division  
Draw keeps Lyon atop

PARIS, Nov 11: Lyon clinched a 1-1 draw in the Rhone derby Wednesday at St Etienne to stay top of the French first division on a night when Monaco, who beat Nancy 2-1, were the only club in the top seven to take full points, reports AFP.

Lyon had gone into