

U-17 WC soccer
Brazil beat
Australia

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Nov 12 (AP/Reuters): Defending champions Brazil beat Australia 2-1 Friday in their opening match in the under-17 World Soccer Championship here today.

Brazil went ahead 1-0 in the 30th minute on Marcos Roberto Marquinhos' goal, and took a 2-0 lead on an own goal in the 67th. Dylan MacAllister scored Australia's only goal in the 82nd minute.

BRIEF RESULTS

Summaries of FIFA Under-17 World Cup soccer championship first stage matches played today:

Group C:
Brazil 2
Australia 1
HT: 1-0
Mali 0
Germany 0

Remaining Group C matches:
Nov 14: Australia v Germany
Brazil v Mali

Nov 17: Germany v Brazil
Australia v Mali

(Two Group D matches to be played later)

Group A:

Previous results
New Zealand 1 United States 2
Uruguay 1 Poland 1

Remaining Group A matches:

Nov 13: New Zealand v Uruguay

United States v Poland

Nov 16: Poland v New Zealand

United States v Uruguay

Group B:

Previous results

Ghana 1 Spain 1
Mexico 4 Thailand 0

Remaining Group B matches:

Nov 13: Spain v Thailand

Ghana v Mexico

Nov 16: Thailand v Ghana

Spain v Mexico

Zoff for a potent attack

LECCCE, Italy, Nov 12: Italy coach Dino Zoff is hoping to discover a winning formula here in Saturday's friendly against Belgium, one of his last experiments before the European championships, reports AFP.

Italy's dour progress towards Euro 2000 ended with a miserable 0-0 draw in Minsk against Belarus and a place in the finals that was greeted with derision by the press.

Though the two problems are linked, Italy's woes are down to a sub-standard midfield and an attack which cannot repeat its weekend feats in the Serie A on international duty.

On Saturday, Zoff will try his only real option to break that deadlock by removing one of his prized defenders and finding a three-man attack.

It's a luxury he can well afford in a friendly, but Zoff hopes that if the experiment is a success, he could also use it for real in next year's tournament in Holland and Belgium.

Touting it for the defence, while at the same time defending, his beloved 4-4-2, Zoff said: "It will be important to see how the experiment goes."

"For us, it could prove to be a valid alternative for the future. It's always important to have two systems of play available, without forgetting though that our main one has yielded excellent results."

The one detail that has yet to be fleshed out is just how he is going to play Juventus pair Alessandro Del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi with AS Roma playmaker Francesco Totti.

The triangle could be either pointed - with Inzaghi up front supported by Del Piero and Totti as joint playmakers - or inverted, with Totti scheming behind Del Piero and Inzaghi.

Zoff is looking for goals, yet the ever-cautious coach is not promising the champagne soccer that fans so desperately want to see.

"If you only look for aesthetically-pleasing football, there's the risk you might not get a result," he warned. "It's easy to talk about putting on a show, but first you have to overcome your opponents."

"We all know that Belgium are a very good team. I watched their game against England and they kept hold of the ball throughout the first half and had the English in trouble."

But along with the skills of the Belgians, Zoff must also cope with several key absences through injury - skipper Paolo Maldini, striker Christian Vieri, defender Alessandro Nesta and midfielder Antonio Conte.

Totti's ultimatum

ROME, Nov 12: Star playmaker Francesco Totti has warned AS Roma that he might walk out on the Serie A club if they fail to become a trophy-winning side, reports AFP.

Totti, 23, who has been playing for AS Roma teams since schoolboy level and was made captain last season, has a contract here until 2003.

But he warned the club: "More than anything else, I want to win. And I don't need to wait for 2003 to decide whether that will be possible with Roma. A year or two will be enough."

"Today, I can't say whether I'll stay or leave."

Born and brought up in Rome, Totti is a hero to the fans here. But now he claims to be motivated by medals, rather than money.

"You start to understand a lot of things as you grow up, and in football, you learn that money isn't the only thing that counts," he said.

"One day, when my career is at an end, I'd like to have a few victories to look back on. If that happens with Roma, so much the better. If not, I'll have to look for somewhere else."

The unexpected outburst will certainly set the antennae quivering at the likes of AC Milan, Inter and Juventus, all of whom were being linked with the gifted international on Thursday.

Denmark vs Israel

Schmeichel doubtful



earlier in the week. While excitement for the game builds in Israel, with a packed house of 45,000 expected at the National Stadium in Tel Aviv, the Danes have remained composed in their preparations and have given the impression of remaining calm under the growing pressure.

Schmeichel will favour Hapoel-Haifa striker Amir Turgeeman ahead of Hapoel Tel Aviv's Ronen Harazi in the starting line-up after Harazi's knee appeared susceptible to injury during training.

Celtic midfielder Eyal Berkovic said on Friday that he was confident Israel could win. "This match is like a cup final, anything can happen, but I think we can win, although we must not concede any goals."

"Even a 1-0 win will be good for us ahead of the return in Copenhagen," he said.

According to reports in the Danish press on Friday, team doctor Mogens Kreutzfeldt was optimistic of Schmeichel's chances of recovery: "They are doing better and better," he was quoted as saying of his injured players.

MSV Duisburg's stocky midfielder Stig Tofting has recovered and is fit, but Tottenham's Allan Nielsen will almost certainly miss the clash after failing to train at all since Denmark's arrival in Israel.

The Israelis, a strong team on their home turf, will be wary.

PROBABLE TEAMS

Israel: Dudu Avital; Alon Hazan, Ran Ben-Shimon, Arik Benado, Alon Harazi, David Ansalem, Tal Banin, Yossi Abuksis, Eyal Berkovic, Haim Revivo, Amir Turgeeman.

Denmark: Thomas Sorensen; Rens Henriksen, Jes Hogh, Jan Heintze, Thomas Helweg; Stig Tofting, Brian Steen Nielsen, Bjarne Goldbaek, Martin Jorgensen, Jon Dahl Tomasson, Ebbe Sand.

Referee: David Elleray (England).

PETER SCHMEICHEL

Schalke 04 striker Ebbe Sand was convinced his team will take something from the first leg before returning for Wednesday's second leg in Copenhagen.

"I am sure we will score at least once," Sand told the Danish press on Friday.

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Slovenia vs Ukraine

Outsiders not overawed



whether first choice goalkeeper Marko Simeunovic will start after missing the last three matches of his club Maribor with a thigh injury.

Mladen Dabanic, of Belgrade's Lokomotiv, who is excellent in one-to-one confrontations, is likely to take his place. Things are not so good for

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Slovenia: Mladen Dabanic, Štefan Marko Simeunovic, Aleksander Knays, Darko Milanic, Zeljko Milinovic, Doni Novak, Amir Karic, Ales Ceh, Miran Pavlin, Zlatko Zahovic, Saso Udovic, Mladen Rudnja.

Ukraine: Oleh Lushny or

Dmitro Parfyonov, Oleh Lushny or

Slavoslav Vashchuk, Yuri Dmitrilin, Yuri Maximov, Serhiy Popov, Andriy Gusin, Serhiy Skachenko, Andriy Shevchenko, Serhiy Rebrov.

SHEVCHENKO

the visitors who have some problems at the back.

Captain Oleh Lushny is a doubtful starter after suffering a groin strain in Arsenal's Champions League match against AIK Stockholm on November 2.

If Lushny can not play, Spartak Moscow's versatile defender Dmitro Parfyonov is likely to take his spot on the right side of defence.

The outlook for injured Dynamo Kiev central defender

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Seles won't chase

STAMFORD, Connecticut, Nov 12: A nagging foot injury has forced former world number one Monica Seles to pull out of next week's season-ending Chase Championships, the WTA Tour announced Thursday.

Seles has been sidelined since late September with a stress fracture in her right foot. She was scheduled to compete at this week's Advanta Championships in Philadelphia, but pulled out, fueling speculation she would not compete next week in New York.

Seles, 25, also missed a good part of the summer hardcourt season with a left forearm injury. Her only tournament win of the year came at Amelia Island, Florida, in April. She reached the Australian Open and French Open semifinals and lost to eventual champion Serena Williams in the US Open quarterfinals.

Seles has 44 career titles, including nine Grand Slam championships. She won the season-ending tournament three straight years beginning in 1990 and lost to Steffi Graf in last year's quarterfinals.

Tauziat faces local favourite Lisa Raymond, who grew up just a few miles from the site, while second seed Lindsay Davenport plays fifth seed Julie Hingis in Friday's quarterfinals.

Natives occupy Stockholm

STOCKHOLM, Nov 12: How Swedes it is in the Stockholm Open!

A record-breaking five Swedes made the quarterfinals on the Royal Tennis Hall's hardcourts on Thursday, reports AP.

Thomas Enqvist, a native Stockholm, top-seeded this year and a former two-time winner of the oldest indoor tournament on the ATP Tour, led the way as he beat Germany's Jens Knippschild 6-2, 6-4.

"School is stressful," said

Williams. "You realize that tennis is a real dream world. But there people are fighting for jobs and to make a place in the world. This is actually more difficult than tennis."

"But I want to win here. It only helps to have another title under your belt."

"The way I look at it, it's not really a loss," said Capriati. "I've done well the last half of the year and I've had a great year."

"Now I just want to do better next year. I really had no idea what to expect this year. I set some small goals and I went up, up, up from there."

Venus, Sandrine in qtrs

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 12: Third seed Venus Williams started slowly, then took command to over-

whelm 16-year-old Czech qualifier Daniela Bedanova 6-4, 6-1 on Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Advanta Championships, reports Reuters.

The 19-year-old Williams

next plays Sandrine Testud of

France, who upset seventh seed

Dominique Van Roost of

Belgium 6-4, 6-4 in their sec-

ond-round match.

Trailing 4-2 in the first set,

the 19-year-old Williams came

alive to win 10 of the next 11

games, breaking Bedanova's

serve five straight times in the

process.

"I just dropped my serve a

couple of times," said Williams.

"But I've been in that situation

of being down a break before. I

was able to keep my calm and

take my time."

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