

Spirited Spain take on weary Argentina

MADRID, Nov 16: An exhibition match Wednesday in Seville between the national teams of Spain and Argentina pits two teams in drastically different moods, reports AP.

For Spain, these are sweet times. The team is savoring praise in the local press for their performance against the legendary Brazilian national team in a friendly match Saturday night in Vigo in northern Spain.

That game ended in a scoreless tie but Spain dominated and was widely credited as having deserved to win.

Spain have also qualified for the European Championship tournament next year after dominating Group 6, winning six of their seven games and outscoring opponents by 39-5. National coach Jose Antonio Camacho has reached an almost godlike status in Spain.

Argentina, meanwhile, are feeling demoralised after suffering a 2-0 loss in Barcelona Sunday in a friendly with Espanyol, a Catalan tea lowing in ninth place in the Spanish domestic league.

It was the fifth loss for Marcelo Bielsa as coach of the Argentine national side.

World Youth Soccer scores

AUCKLAND, Nov 16: Ghana thumped Thailand 7-1 Tuesday to finish top of Group B at the under-17 world soccer championship while Mexico gained the second playoff spot by upsetting Spain 1-0, reports AP.

New Zealand scored an upset 2-1 win over Poland, relegating the Poles to bottom place in Group A.

Tyson may fight in Europe

NEW YORK, Nov 16: Former undisputed heavyweight champion Mike Tyson will return to the ring on Saturday, January 15 in either the United Kingdom or Germany. Showtime Boxing announced yesterday, reports Reuters.

Tyson's opponent is yet to be named.

It will be the first fight for Tyson since his October 23 no contest when opponent Orlin Norris

Cuban eyes retain title

NAGOYA, Japan, Nov 16: All-conquering Cuba proved they are back in top form again by beating hot favourites Russia to win the World Cup women's volleyball tournament for the fourth time in a row today, reports Reuters.

The Cuban women, who have suffered several upset losses this season, regained their pride with their 25-19, 25-15, 25-19 victory over the European champions, the current world number one team.

Ben the loser!

TORONTO, Nov 16: Banned sprinter Ben Johnson has apparently failed another doping test — one that he himself has arranged in his continuing fight for reinstatement by Canadian authorities, reports Reuters.

Johnson's agent, Morris Chrobek, confirmed yesterday to Canadian Press, the national news agency, that Johnson had tested positive for a banned diuretic in October, but said it was taken for medical reasons to assuage severe pain.

Nat'l men's h'ball on

The 13th national men's handball championship began at the Mirpur National Indoor Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Six matches were decided on the opening day, till filling this report with five matches deciding in the morning and the rest one in the afternoon.

Dhaka outplayed Pabna by 30-5 goals. Bangladesh Police beat Jhalakati 36-18, Natore defeated Panchagarh 27-22, Chittagong crushed Faridpur 30-9 and Rajshahi beat Dinajpur 32-14 in the morning session.

Dhaka defeated Jessore 32-16 after dominating the first half by 14-9 in the lone match held in the afternoon.

Seven matches will be held today.

Bengal beat

From page 13
embarrassment of a heavy defeat. The gritty goalkeeper saved two certain attempts by Shaikh Sanjeeb and Raman Vijayan. On another occasion, he tipped a powerful shot from Jackson over the bar. Besides, Vijayan was also guilty of shooting wide from close at least on three occasions.

The goal came when Das, chased down a through from Jackson and side-stepped Mohammed Sujan and Fattai to shoot home past an advancing Titumur.

Jagarnath, who meet Goan-based Churchill Brothers on November 18, need to rev up their game if they want to cross the hurdle of the knockout first round.

CGA v'ball

The CGA Volleyball Cup 99 organised by the Office of the Controller General of Accounts, began on Monday, says a press release.

CGA Asif Ali inaugurated the tournament at the office premises.

Pressure on Ukraine, Ireland Danes, English can afford to relax



PARIS, Nov 16: England are odds-on favourites to earn their place in the Euro 2000 finals following Wednesday's second leg of Euro 2000 qualifiers against Scotland at Wembley.

Denmark have an even easier task in their match at home to Israel though everything is still to play for when Ireland travel to Turkey. Meanwhile little Slovenia are on the verge of upstaging glamorous Ukraine after their first leg win.

All 16 nations for next year's finals in Belgium and Holland will be known following the four ties.

SCOTLAND - ENGLAND

It is 50 years since Scotland achieved the kind of result at Wembley they need to overturn their 2-0 first leg deficit.

The Scots' 3-1 success at Wembley in 1949 was the last time they beat their neighbours by two clear goals at the so-called venue of legends.

The Scots would be better off not consulting the history books if they are looking for comfort. They have mustered just three goals in their last 10 encounters with England and last won at Wembley 18 years ago.

Adding to Scottish pessimism is the fact that Kevin Gallacher, probably their most technically gifted striker, misses the Wembley return after getting himself booked for a pointless tackle on Michael Owen at Hampden.

Judging by his aimless finishing on Saturday, that may be a blessing in disguise for coach Craig Brown, though his likely replacement, Gary McSwegan, is hardly Ronald.

And the manager has already decided that David Connolly will take Robbie Keane's place on Wednesday in preference to veteran Tony Cascarino.

Keegan was excellent.

The England coach was speaking as his side reunited in preparation for the return leg of the tie at Wembley on Wednesday.

England's two-goal first leg hero Paul Scholes missed training, though, to see his baby.

Scholes travelled home but was due to return to the England camp later on Monday, while goalkeeping David Seaman also missed training.

Keegan said: "Paul's wife rang up a little concerned about the baby, but it's nothing."

"He will be back this afternoon. Missing a morning's training won't do him too much harm."

"David Seaman has not trained either. He has a slight problem, but other than that we had everyone there."

"It would be a first for me if I could say 'same again'. There have always been so many changes with injuries and suspensions in my previous matches in charge."

Keegan did not elaborate on Seaman's injury, but if he is not fit, Leeds' stopper Nigel Martyn will take over in goal.

Keegan also came to the de-

cision to leave the team.

Midfielder Don Hutchison is also facing a race to get fit after picking up a calf strain.

Keegan holds all the aces, although his England side hardly look like they will set Europe alight at next year's finals.

Keegan is likely to stick with the same side, though he may opt to field Leicester's Steve Guppy to deliver some crosses from the left flank, with Phil Neville missing out.

Goalkeeper David Seaman is expected to be fit despite missing training with a calf injury on Monday.

TURKEY - IRELAND

Ireland have a tough task in Bursa, Turkey, having conceded a late goal for 1-1 draw in Dublin and with Robbie Keane suspended.

Keane scored with 11 minutes to go to give them a well-deserved lead but was booked for dissent following the penalty decision only three minutes later.

Lee Carsley handled the ball and Swedish referee Anders Frisk did not hesitate in signalling a spot kick. Tayfur Havutcu stepped up to knock the ball home and give the Turks the edge for the return.

Goalkeeper Alan Kelly had already been sent back to Blackburn for treatment on a groin injury before the Irish set out on a marathon eight-hour journey to Turkey.

But a roll-call of other casualties also revealed fitness doubts over centre backs Kenny Cunningham and Gary Breen, who both have knee injuries, midfield Lee Carsley, suffering from bruised Achilles tendons, and full back Steve Cart with a hamstring strain.

McCarthy remains hopeful that all four will be fit in time and that striker Niall Quinn, who was an 11th hour withdrawal on Saturday with a neck muscle injury, will also be available.

And the manager has already decided that David Connolly will take Robbie Keane's place on Wednesday in preference to veteran Tony Cascarino.

Denmark will not have forgotten their victory run in this competition seven years ago. In 1992, they replaced Yugoslavia because of the war in the Balkans and became surprising yet popular champions.

The 43,000 spectators at the Ramat Gan stadium saw a comprehensive display of attacking football culminating in goals for Jon Dahl Tomasson (2), Stig Tofting, Martin Jorgensen and finally Brian Steen Nielsen.

Israel's Haim Revivo was, meanwhile, sent off in the 58th minute, sent off a reckless challenge when the home side were two goals adrift and will be out of the second leg.

Denmark will have to overturn their 2-0 lead at Wembley against this sort of opposition, England should take up tiddlywinks."

Limp-wristed defending by the Scots allowed English forward Paul Scholes to twice drive a dagger through the not-so-brave hearts at Hampden and the Scots will travel south fearing the worst in the English capital on Wednesday.

Coach Craig Brown's position has already been questioned following the Hampden horror show when Scotland failed abjectly to break down a mean English side happy to sit on its lead.

Brown admits it would be "remarkable" if his team were to overturn the deficit though rightly he recognises that the Scots will be written off at England's peril.

"If we get an early goal the match'll open up," he said. "It's important we didn't lose a third goal (at Hampden). We are in touch. But Kevin (Keegan) must be feeling supremely optimistic."

The Scots' woe was mounted by the suspension of striker Kevin Gallacher, who got himself booked for a pointless tackle on Michael Owen at Hampden.

For Brown, his likely replacement is Gary McSwegan.

"We expect McSwegan to be fit," Brown said. "And we have good options up front with

Mark Burchill also in contention, which is why I put him on at the end of the game."

Midfielder Don Hutchison is also an injury worry.

Bravehearts' Wembley challenge

LONDON, Nov 16 (AP): Scotland must reverse a 2-0 deficit at Wembley on Wednesday to advance to next summer's European Championships at the expense of Kevin Keegan's England.

The Scots have won by two goals on English soil on only four occasions and just once since the Second World War.

Two-goal wins:

1877 (at Kennington Oval):

England 1 Scotland 3

1881 (Kennington Oval):

England 1 Scotland 6

1928 (Wembley): England 1

Scotland 5

1949 (Wembley): England 1

Scotland 3

Scotland's other Wembley wins:

1938: England 0 Scotland 1

1951: England 2 Scotland 3

1963: England 1 Scotland 2

1967: England 2 Scotland 3

1977: England 1 Scotland 3

1981: England 0 Scotland 1

Scotland's other Wembley wins:

1938: England 0 Scotland 1

1951: England 2 Scotland 3

1963: England 1 Scotland 2

1967: England 2 Scotland 3

1977: England 1 Scotland 3

1981: England 0 Scotland 1

Scotland's other Wembley wins:

1938: England 0 Scotland 1

1951: England 2 Scotland 3

1963: England 1 Scotland 2

1967: England 2 Scotland 3

1977: England 1 Scotland 3

1981: England 0 Scotland 1

Scotland's other Wembley wins:

1938: England 0 Scotland 1

1951: England 2 Scotland 3

1963: England 1 Scotland 2

1967: England 2 Scotland 3

1977: England 1 Scotland 3

1981: England 0 Scotland 1

Scotland's other Wembley wins:

1938: England 0 Scotland 1

1951: England 2 Scotland 3

1963: England 1 Scotland 2

1967: England 2 Scotland 3

1977: England 1 Scotland 3

1981: England 0 Scotland 1

Scotland's other Wembley wins:

1938: England 0 Scotland 1

1951: England 2 Scotland 3

1963: England 1 Scotland 2

1967: England 2 Scotland 3

1977: England 1 Scotland 3

1981: England 0 Scotland 1

Scotland's other Wembley wins:

1938: England 0 Scotland 1

1951: England 2 Scotland 3

1963: England 1 Scotland 2

1967: England 2 Scotland 3

19