

Sport

Sachin wants to meet Sir Donald

ADELAIDE, Dec 8: Indian maestro Sachin Tendulkar hopes to take time off from the first Test against Australia starting here on Friday to take tips from the greatest batsman of all time, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old said he would like to call on the legendary Sir Donald Bradman during his weeklong stay in Adelaide.

Last year, Tendulkar was a special guest at Bradman's 90th birthday celebrations here and was granted a rare meeting with the reclusive legend along with Australian spinner Shane Warne.

Bradman once described the Indian captain as the batsman who most reminded him of himself.

"I'll try and give him a call and it would be nice if I could just meet him and say hello," Tendulkar said.

When Tendulkar first played in Adelaide, as an 18-year-old on the 1991-92 tour, Bradman stayed away from the Test match to attend to his ailing wife.

Since then, the Indian has grown in stature and is now widely acknowledged as the most prolific modern batsman with 21 Test and 24 one-day centuries.

Tendulkar is the one seen as most likely to shatter most batting records -- except perhaps Bradman's awesome average of 99.9.

Tendulkar's popularity was on view as autograph hunters besieged the soft-spoken man when the Indian team arrived here on a wet Wednesday afternoon.

Heavy showers forced the tourists to practice indoors for some time, but clear weather has been forecast during the Test.

He brushed aside suggestions the Indians had adopted a more aggressive approach after his team were involved in verbal battles with rival players and umpires during the war against New South Wales earlier this week.

"It's just spur of the moment, I mean, it happens on the ground," Tendulkar said.

"It's nothing that we have planned, but sometimes the frustrations do come out on the field. It's very natural, but as long as it's within limits, I think it's okay."

This is Tendulkar's second visit to Adelaide this year. He was here in September to consult specialists at the Australian Academy of Sports for a back complaint.

"I am fully recovered now, and raring to go," he said. "The back is not a problem anymore."

Bayern win, Lazio held, Feyenoord cruise

Vintage Real show

PARIS, Dec 8: Real Madrid shot back to winning ways with a rousing 3-1 Champions League in the European

Champions League on Tuesday night in front of a hardcore 18,000 fans at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, reports AFP.

Two goals from Savoia and a late strike by his Brazilian compatriot Roberto Carlos brought some cheer to club president Lorenzo Sanz, who bore the brunt of angry fans following a 5-1 home defeat against Real Zaragoza at the weekend leaving them in 17th spot in the Spanish table.

Madrid, without injured Steve McManaman of England and only using France's Nicolas Anelka for the final minute, put a dent in Rosenborg's impressive away form so far though hardly a quarter of their usual crowd turned up.

Last year's runners-up Bayern Munich beat Dynamo Kyiv 2-1 and are in second spot in group C after this second round of second phase matches. Madrid, with two wins, lead the pool with six points to Munich's four. Rosenborg have just a point and Kyiv hold up the foot of the table with none.

Holland's Feyenoord fought back after skipper Kees Van Wonderen was sent off in the seventh minute, to win 3-0 at home to nine-man Marseille, though Chelsea top group D with Lazio second following a goalless draw in Rome during which Chelsea had coach Gianluca Vialli sent off for arguing with the fourth match official on the touchline.

REAL-ROSENBERG Real are keeping their fingers crossed that history can repeat itself as in their current campaign they have met no less than four teams whom they overcame a couple of seasons ago on their way to their seventh European Cup win at the expense of Juventus - one team they cannot meet this time round.

Rosenborg made an energetic start but that came to nothing as golden-boy Raul who drew first blood for the Spaniards in the 17th minute, stabbing keeper Jarn Jamfall could only palm out an effort from the mercurial Savoia, a thorn in the Norwegian flesh all night.

Sergio said, referring to the minute when Kyiv's goalkeeper Oleksandr Shovkovsky dropped an incoming corner kick and the tall Bayern striker slipped in a quick boot to knock the ball across the line.

Bayern may have taken full points but were anything but impressive in the absence of big guns Stefan Effenberg, Mehmet Scholl, Bixente Lizarazu and Giovanni Elber.

Kyiv were off their game too in the first half and only after the break, when Serhii Rebrov beat Bayern's offside trap for a 50th minute goal, did they threaten.

"Even though we were missing four or five top guys we can play better football than that," Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said. "We made so many mistakes, and that made us lose a lot of energy defending, energy that was then wanting when it came to attacking."

It's the fifth or sixth time this season that we have let through a goal in the 50th or 55th minute," Bayern keeper Oliver Kahn wondered. "I only know why: I tried to rev ourselves up in the break, to be more aggressive up front and exactly the opposite happened."

"We led 1-0 but didn't play well," Jancker said. "We got better in the second half though and held them off. When I think back to the other two games we've had against Kiev I was amazed how much room they left us up front before half time. If we'd been able to hang on to the ball longer we would have had a bigger lead."

"The fans are our 12th man," public criticism of Bayern in recent weeks for their dispassionate performances, "and we hope to be playing here in front of 62,000 people in our next game."

Feyenoord won a battle of former European champions when they swamped Marseille 3-0 in a temperamental affair which saw three players sent off.

The match, which for an hour had failed to live up to expectations with a place in the quarter-finals still a possibility for the winners, suddenly ignited as Marseille had two men sent off in quick succession.

First Yannick Fischer went on 62 minutes and Sebastian Perez then also departed early with 11 minutes remaining when, having been booked for a foul on Tomasz Rzata, he was judged to have brought down Jan de Visser.

By then Feyenoord had finally broken the deadlock when Bonaventure Kalou of the Ivory Coast burst down the right and flicked the ball to his left for Argentine striker Julio Cruz to sweep a first-time right foot shot into the net past a statuesque Porato in the 72nd minute.

Paul Bosvelt made the win safe with the second when he headed home the rebound after Kalou's thumping drive came down off the crossbar with seven minutes to go.

And Cruz scored a third to rub salt into French wounds in the dying seconds.

Feyenoord still lie only third in Group D a point behind pacesetters Chelsea and Lazio, who parted goals in Rome.

Chelsea had Vialli sent off but still earned themselves a valuable point after holding favourites Lazio to a 0-0 draw at Rome's Olympic Stadium.

Vialli was dismissed after an argument with the fourth match official in the second half, but his team never really looked like scoring while Lazio failed to turn their superiority into goals.

Brazil bookies' favourites

LONDON, Dec 8 (Reuters): Brazil were named 4-1 favourites by bookmakers William Hill to win the 2002 World Cup after Tuesday's qualifying draws in Tokyo.

Champions France were quoted at 10-1.

Setting: 4-1 Brazil; 9-1 Argentina, Italy and Spain; 10-1 France and Netherlands; 11-1 Germany; 14-1 England; 33-1 Croatia, Nigeria and Sweden; 40-1 Ukraine and Yugoslavia; 50-1 Norway, Romania and Uruguay; 66-1 Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Mexico and Portugal; 80-1 Czech Republic; 100-1 Bulgaria, Cameroon, Ghana, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa and South Korea; 125-1 Turkey; 150-1 Austria, Greece, Japan, Morocco, Poland, Ireland, Scotland and Switzerland; 200-1 Tunisia and US; 250-1 Wales; 500-1 Northern Ireland; 750-1 and upwards others.

2002 World Cup at a glance

TOKYO, Dec 8 (AP): Facts about the 2002 World Cup hosted by Japan and South Korea:

RECORD NUMBER OF TEAMS An unprecedented 198 nations and regions are registered to compete, though three of them -- hosts Japan and South Korea and reigning champions France -- are allowed to skip the qualifying rounds. The record number of contestants means a record number of qualifying games: 752.

ASIA'S FIRST WORLD CUP The 2002 games will be the first held in Asia. Of the 16 World Cups held since the first in 1930, nine have been in Europe, six in Latin America and one -- the 1994 tournament -- was hosted by the United States.

FIRST TO BE CO-HOSTED After an intense competition, Japan and South Korea were chosen in 1996 to co-host the games. The first game will be held in South Korea, while Japan will take the final. Matches will be played at a total of 20 venues, spread evenly between the two nations.

WORLD CUP NEWCOMER: JAPAN Japan is a relative newcomer to World Cup competition. The country first qualified for a World Cup berth in the 1998 games in France. South Korea has a longer history of World Cup play: The nation first qualified for the finals in 1954 in Switzerland.

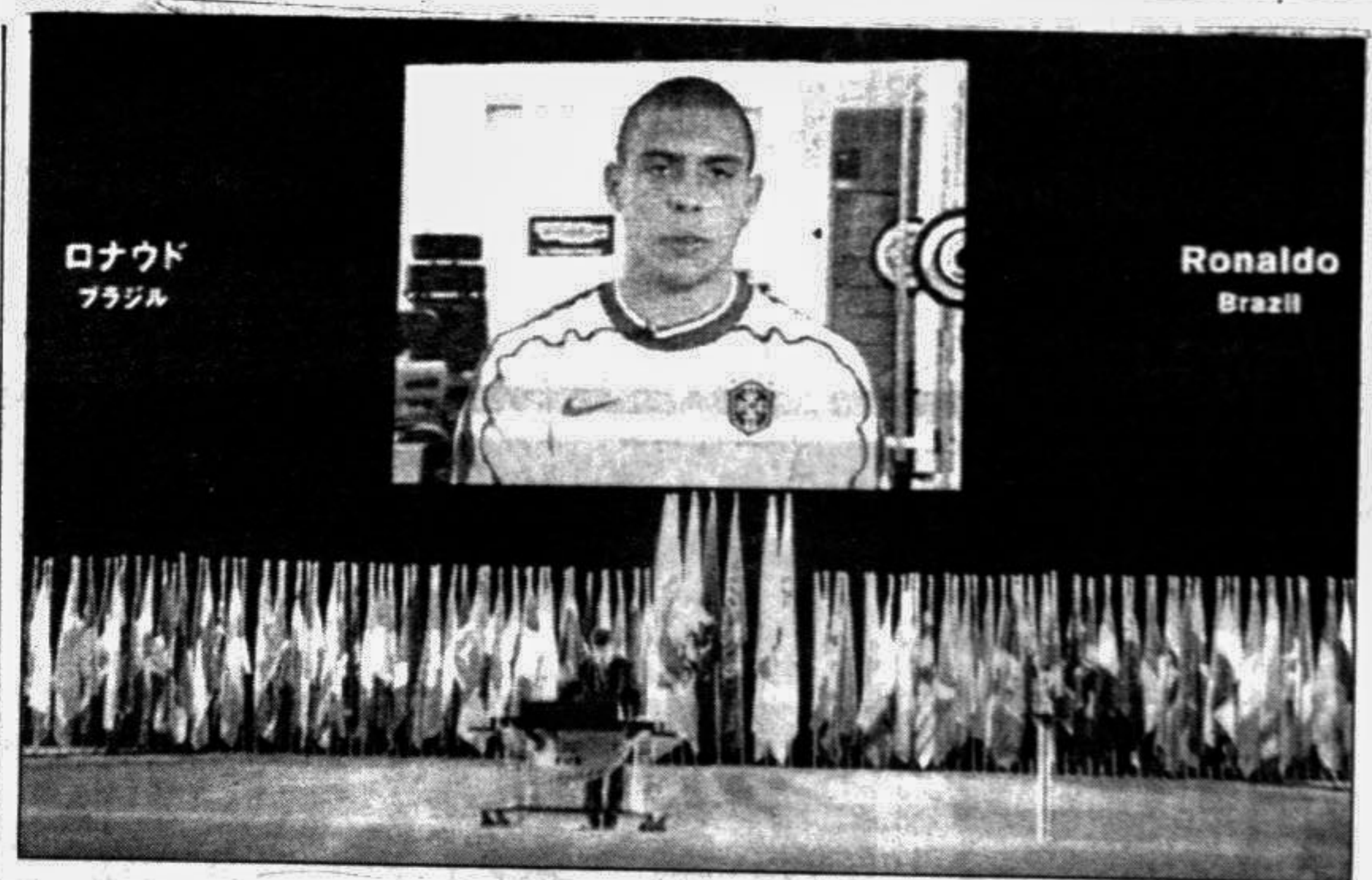
WC 2002 qualifying Australia wants to play all games at home

SYDNEY, Dec 8: Soccer Australia will attempt to convince the Oceania confederation to play all their qualifying group games in Australia after being matched with Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and American Samoa in the 2002 World Cup, reports AFP.

Oceania heavyweights Australia and New Zealand were split into two qualifying groups with the Kiwis taking on Tahiti, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands.

The group winners, expected to be New Zealand and Australia, will play off in a home and away series with the winner to play the fifth-placed South American team to play in the finals in Japan and South Korea.

SA chairman Basil Scarsella, speaking from Japan, said his federation would leave nothing to chance.



Superstar Ronaldo delivering his message via satellite during the World Cup 2002 qualifying round draw at the Tokyo International Forum Hall on December 7. — AFP photo

Japan realising reality

TOKYO, Dec 8: Japan woke up on Wednesday for the celebrations for the 2002 World Cup preliminary draw with a hangover about its preparations to co-host the finals, reports AFP.

The headache is over money. Rows over television rights, tickets and sponsorships came to the fore when world governing body FIFA and local organisers sat down ahead of Tuesday's lottery for qualifying groups.

The draw, assisted by football celebrities and local stars, would not even have been broadcast live at home if not for a change of heart by FIFA's marketing partner, ISL Worldwide.

ISL had originally planned to sell the rights to the draw in the same package with the rights for the World Cup two-and-a-half years ahead.

Since negotiations for the TV rights to the finals are still going on, Japan would have been unable to broadcast the draw. But ISL finally bowed to a demand from the Japanese organising committee for a separate deal.

Public-financed Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) was then allowed to broadcast the event at Tokyo's International Forum live for free.

"I understand the logic of television rights," said Yasuhiko Endoh, general secretary of the committee. "But it is something unimaginable that the first official event of the World Cup cannot be broadcast in the host country."

Asked whether a solution was in sight to the controversy over TV rights to 2002, Endoh said, "It is tough. There are various hurdles ahead and we have to clear them one by one."

South Korea, the 2002 World Cup co-host, is also struggling with its own deal. The accelerating commercialisation of world football means big money is at stake.

The Swiss-based ISL, in association with the German media group Kirch, has won the 2002 World Cup marketing and television rights for 1.3 billion Swiss francs (830 million dollars) and the 2006 one for 1.5 billion Swiss francs.

The TV rights for France 98 were about 10 times less. ISL offered to sell TV rights to a consortium of NHK and five private Japanese networks for 650 million Swiss francs (415 million dollars) in a package for the next two Cups. Japan paid only about 5.8 million dollars for France 98.

And the Japanese consortium was ready to pay no more than 100 million dollars for 2002 alone.

The Japanese and South Korean organisers will get no share of the World Cup TV rights and merchandise revenues from FIFA. Instead they will be allowed to keep proceeds from their ticket sales.

A total of three million tickets will be on sale for the 64 matches.

Japan, a nation of 120 million people, rejected an initial offer of 750,000 tickets to each host nation, seeking 250,000 more. But football-crazy South Korea, with 45 million people, is content.

FIFA vice president Lennart Johansson said the world body would set up a special subcommittee in an effort to settle the problem by March.

"There never has been an organising committee happy with the distribution of tickets."

The most pressing question for the local organisers is the difficulty of finding an official supplier in the information and technology (IT) field to link up 20 World Cup venues in the two countries.

ISL, seeking a total of 14 official suppliers, has signed up seven so far but many corporations are reportedly reluctant about sponsorship which has risen by one quarter to some 50 million dollars per firm in cash and kind.

FIFA general secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen said it was "not something abnormal" that talks on suppliers' contracts take time.

"We are, however, a little bit more concerned about the IT situation," he said.

"We have been asking the ISL to proceed more quickly in this respect because we are absolutely aware of the needs of the organisers with respect to IT so this is a point which is right now under review."



Real Madrid superstar Roberto Carlos (R) battles for possession with Rosenborg's Jan Derek Sorensen during their Champions League clash at Madrid on December 7. — AFP photo

Kahn wondered, "I only know why: I tried to rev ourselves up in the break, to be more aggressive up front and exactly the opposite happened."

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Feyenoord won a battle of former European champions when they swamped Marseille 3-0 in a temperamental affair which saw three players sent off.

The two clubs had not previously crossed in European competition and it turned out to be a rather ugly affair as they acquainted themselves with each other.

The Dutch suffered a big blow in the seventh minute when Van Wonderen was sent off. Finding himself the last defender Van Wonderen crudely hauled down the onrushing Florian Maurice to qualify for an early bath.

Maurice was clearly a marked man as Jean-Paul Van Gastel then clattered into him.

MARSEILLE, France, Dec 8: Former Italian international striker Fabrizio Ravanelli confirmed on Wednesday that he was leaving ailing French giants Marseille for Italian outfit Lazio so he could win back his place in the international side, reports AFP.

The former Juventus and Middlesbrough forward, who will be 31 on Saturday, said he had signed a one-and-a-half year contract, although the fee was not announced, with the Cup Winners Cup champions, who are currently second on goal difference to city rivals AS Roma in Serie A.

SA chairman Basil Scarsella, speaking from Japan, said his federation would leave nothing to chance.

Tonga, Samoa and American Samoa do not have the facilities to host World Cup qualifiers.

"We'll be putting it to Oceania that we play the group games in Australia in 2001," Scarsella told Australian Associated Press.

The Oceania executive meets on January 15 and is likely to make a decision on the venues at that time.

Australia missed out on the 1998 World Cup finals in France when they were beaten on away goals over two legs by Iran.

UEFA Cup third round second leg

Dortmund, Bremen get out of jail

PARIS, Dec 8: Borussia Dortmund and Werder Bremen pulled their UEFA Cup third round ties out of the fire.

Tuesday as they overturned sizeable first leg deficits while Juventus just scraped through on aggregate after losing their home leg against Olympiakos of Greece, reports AFP.

Dortmund, European champions only two years ago, dragged themselves back from the brink of defeat to knock out fellow Champions League flops Glasgow Rangers in a penalty shoot-out after overturning a 0-2 first leg scoreline.

If Dortmund had a steep enough hill to climb, Bremen had to scale a high mountain and duly did so, winning 4-0 at home against shellshocked Lyon, who had cruised the first leg 3-0 in France.

Marco Bode bagged the first on 15 minutes and Andreas Herzog notched the second from the penalty spot seven minutes before the interval after David Linares fouled Torsten Frings in the box.

Frank Baumann levelled the tie with the third on 56 minutes as a remarkable turnaround took shape before just 8,000 home fans, the remainder of the Bremen support believing their side's cause was hopeless.

Peruvian striker Claudio Pizarro marked the winner on 77 minutes, fed by Brazilian

colleague Ailton, who split Lyon's defence with a blistering run down the right wing.

Sonny Anderson could still have saved Lyon in injury time but missed an easy goal from three metres when he scuffed a shot just wide.

Lyon, who went out of the Champions League to modest Maribor in the preliminaries, have now gone out of Europe and lost ground in the French league after two straight defeats.

Their defence has leaked ten goals in the past three games.

Danko Kovacevic put Juventus a goal up inside 60 seconds against Olympiakos, making the score a healthy 4-1 on aggregate but two goals from Predrag Djordjevic made the increasingly ragged Italians sweat out the final minutes in Palermo.

Goalkeeper Jens Lehmann was Dortmund's hero, parrying all but one of Rangers penalties. Gers' captain Lorenzo Amoroso was the only Rangers player to beat him from the spot while Giovane van Bronckhorst, Arthur Numan and Claudio Reyna were all denied.

Christian Nerlinger missed on the Dortmund side but confident strikes by Fredi Bobic, Alfred Nijhuis and Sergej Barbarez ensured a 3-1 penalty result after goals from Viktor Ikpeba on the half hour and Bobic in the last minute had levelled the tie over 180 minutes.

"It was a cruel way to lose," Amoroso said. "Everything went the other way for us today. They scored twice with the second goal in injury time."

"We lost two stupid goals, missed a great chance to score ourselves in extra-time then were unfortunate with the penalties."

Despite great experience at international level, including winning the 1997 European Champions Cup, the Germans entered the match as underdogs after going down 2-0 at Ibrox Park a fortnight ago.

"I am so relieved," puffed coach Michael Skibbe. "We have a long negative run behind us but deserved to win because of the high tempo we imposed on the game."

Those fans who were able to turn up for the mid-afternoon kick-off got their first reward when Nigerian international Ikpeba scored on 28 minutes with a header from a corner kick and with Ragners far too timid up front and hoping just to hang on, substitute Bobic slammed home from close range in injury time to make it 2-2 on aggregate.

Neil McCann missed a gilt-edged chance for the Scots in extra-time and in the shootout it was Lehmann who played the starring role.

"We are ecstatic that we have achieved a minor miracle," Dortmund captain Stefan Reuter said. "What with all the talk after the first leg in Glasgow when everybody said we weren't good enough to turn things round, well now we've shown them."



Juventus' Yugoslav international striker Darko Kovacevic (R) being tackled by an Olympiakos defender during their UEFA Cup third round second leg tie at Palermo on December 7. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 22 mins and a list of words to be placed in the grid.

Cryptogram puzzle with a grid of letters and a clue: 'Yesterday's Cryptoguer: I'VE HEARD THAT SHE'S A BOOTLEGGER'S DAUGHTER, BUT I LOVE HER STILL.'

Today's Cryptoguer clue: V equals R. The Cryptoguer is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

TABLES AND FIXTURES

Table showing league tables for European Champions League and UEFA Cup. Includes columns for teams, games played, wins, draws, losses, goals for, and goals against.