



The South African national team assembles on the victory podium after clinching the third spot in the tournament's Cup at Accra on February 12.

English Div One Charlton hit purple patch

LONDON, Feb 13 (Reuters/Internet): English First Division leaders Charlton Athletic recorded their 10th successive win in all competitions when they beat Wolverhampton Wanderers 2-0 on Saturday.

Second half goals by Graham Stewart and Steve Brown kept Charlton four points clear of Manchester City, who needed two late goals by Mark Kennedy to see off Norwich City's challenge.

Kennedy struck in the 82nd and 83rd minutes to help his side to a 3-1 win.

Ipswich Town remained third a point behind City, Marcus Stewart scoring the winner in a 2-1 defeat of his former club Huddersfield Town.

Lyon to appeal against Anderson ban

LYON, France, Feb 13: Olympique Lyon will appeal against a three-match ban on their Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson, club president Jean-Michel Aulas said on Saturday, reports Reuters.

We want it reduced to one match plus one match suspended," Aulas said after Lyon's 1-0 home victory over Troyes in the second round of the French Cup.

The suspended match is a solution fitting for a player like Anderson with no disciplinary history," he said.

Anderson sent off for a violent foul on Monaco's Marcelo Gallardo last Sunday, began serving his ban on Saturday.

Aulas said Lyon would lodge the appeal on Monday with a view to the French league's disciplinary committee hearing it the same day.

Lyon hope a successful appeal would allow them to field Anderson in Tuesday's First Division match at Nantes.

With runaway leaders Monaco 10 points clear, Lyon are involved in the three-horse race for two Champions League berths with Paris St Germain and AJ Auxerre.

Nat'l school, madrasah sports

Nasirabad Government Boys School, Chittagong, and J M Sen High School, Chittagong, emerged national school champions in cricket and hockey respectively in the 29th Bangladesh national school and madrasah sports competition at Physical Training College ground at Mohammadpur yesterday, reports PTI.

Moulana Kasimuddin High of Rajshahi, and St Nicholas High of Dhaka became champions in volleyball and basketball respectively.

The five-day competitions, organised by Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Directorate (SHSED), concluded yesterday.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader distributed prizes among the winners as the chief guest.

Shoaib

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Shoaib was absent from the team's hotel the night before the second final in the tri-series in Sydney.

"He is an asset and we too feel sorry that we deprived a large crowd from seeing the fastest bowler in the world in action, but discipline is discipline," Zia said.

"Greats like Dennis Lillee, Mark Tait, Imran Khan and Javed Miandad found nothing wrong with his action so we were sure he will get clearance," Zia said.

Zia also said the PCB recommended at the ICC meeting that the (nine-member) advisory panel was too large.

"We proposed it should be very small, like four members, with majority of them being former fast bowlers.

"We also thought the ICC should reform its advisory panel after some of the members had gone public, including Bobby Simpson, who criticised Jagmohan Dalmiya's decision to allow Shoaib Akhtar to play in one-dayers."

CONCACAF Gold Cup

Victories for Colombia



MIAMI, Feb 13: Gonzalo Martinez scored in the 15th minute and Colombia held off a late Jamaica

surge to record a 1-0 victory in an opening-round Group A match of the CONCACAF Gold Cup on Saturday night, reports Reuters.

Colombia can advance to next Saturday's quarter-finals with a Group A win over Honduras on Wednesday night.

The Americans struck first on Jovan Kirovski's seventh international goal in the 18th minute off a corner kick in which four American players touched the ball.

Eddie Lewis sent the corner to Claudio Reyna at the right top of the penalty area. Reyna floated the ball across the area to Wynalda on the left side. Wynalda then found Kirovski, who headed the ball down past goalkeeper Didier Menard from five metres.

Wynalda gave the United States some breathing room in the 55th minute, converting a penalty kick after Reyna was taken down in the penalty area. It was his 34th international goal in 104 appearances. Cobi Jones closed out the

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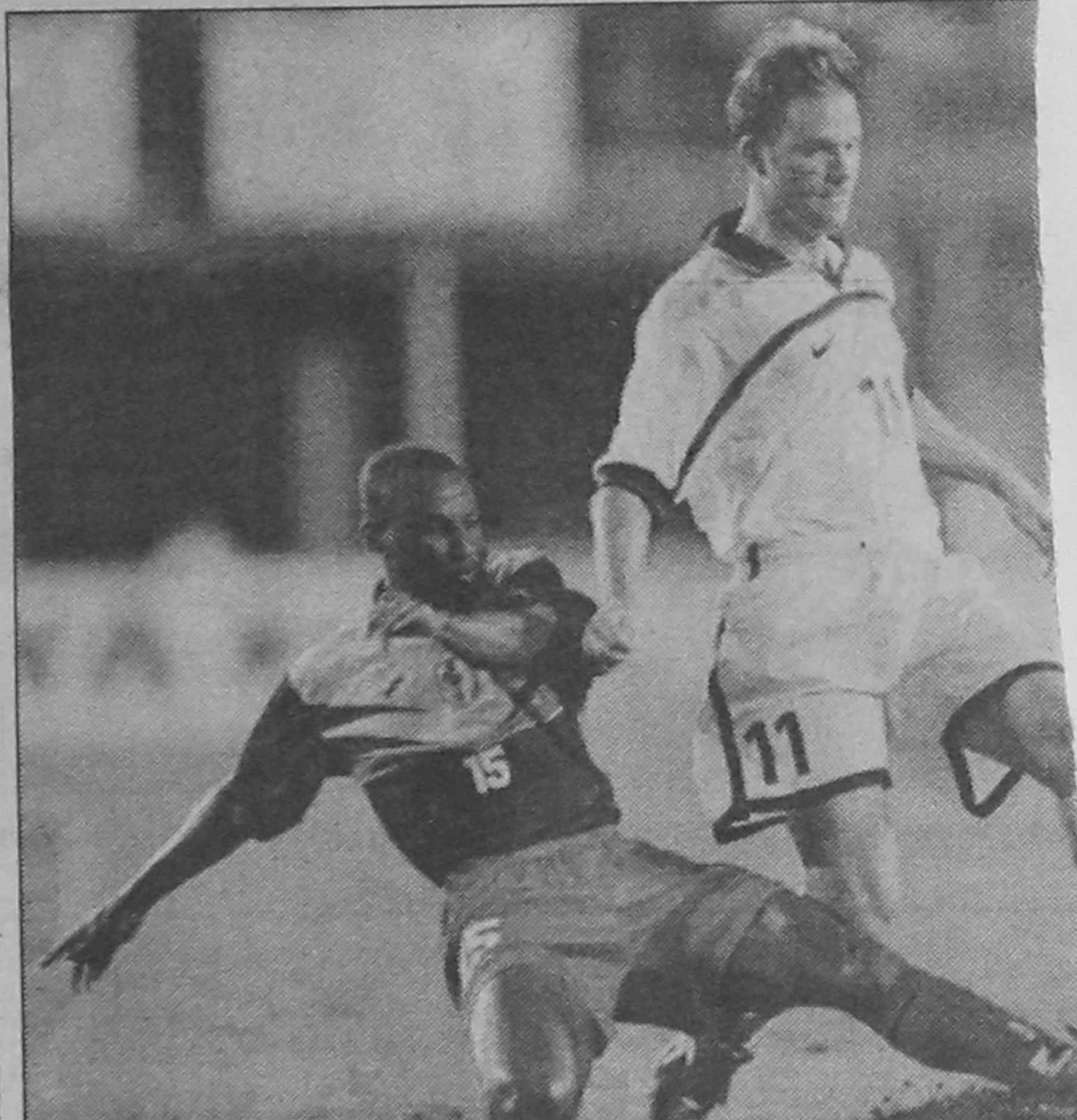
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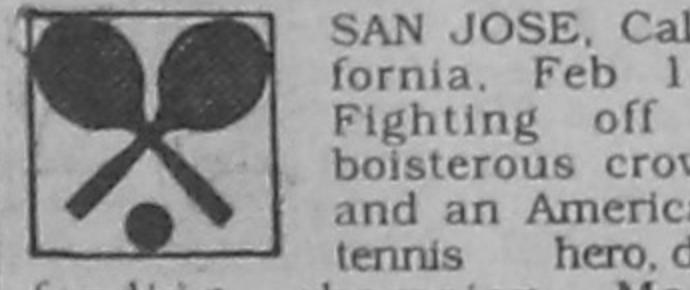
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Veteran US striker Eric Wynalda (R) trying to evade a tackle from Ernst Athis during their CONCACAF Gold Cup fixture at Florida on February 12. — Internet photo

Philippoussis crushes Courier



SAN JOSE, California, Feb 13: Fighting off a boisterous crowd and an American tennis hero, defending champion Mark Philippoussis out-gutted with seed Jim Courier 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinals of the 375,000 dollars Sybase Open on Saturday, reports PTI.

The second-seed Philippoussis will face surprise finalist Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden, who upset seventh seed Wayne Ferreira 7-6, 2-6, 6-3.

In knocking out Courier, Philippoussis played two extremely impressive games to close out the match. At 4-4 in the third set after Courier double-faulted at deuce, the big Aussie ripped an approach shot down the line and closed out the game with a sharp forehand volley.

"You can't give Mark that kind of a look at a second serve because you are going to pay for it," Courier said. "I didn't serve well at all. If you told me I was going to break him three times I would have said I would win the match in straight sets. I didn't do my job."

Courier stood toe-toe with his from the baseline but could never match his prowess around the net.

"He can hit a winner from anywhere or he can make strange errors and hit a winner out of nowhere. He's very explosive," said Courier.

Tillstrom — an unassuming 27-year-old Swede who has had a quintessential journeyman's career — unleashed his big low-slung forehand and sharp crosscourt backhand in subduing Ferreira.

The South African blew nu-

merous chances in the third set, frequently dumping his backhand into the net and failing to convert volleys.

"I felt in charge the whole time but I didn't use my opportunities," said Ferreira, who committed 27 unforced errors in the match. "I always felt like I had a chance to break him but I couldn't put it together. I just couldn't get through."

Tillstrom, who has won only one in his nine-year career, is not exactly a household name. With a career-high ranking of 31st and a quiet manner, few fans outside Sweden could distinguish his mop haircut from that of court tyman Thomas Enqvist or hundreds of other Swedish 20-somethings.

"If people want to know something about me, they'll have to come out and watch my game," said Tillstrom, who admired Swedish great Mats Wilander growing up. However, he plays with much more power but far fewer tricks in his bag than his hero. "I want to be at the highest level now, that's where the attention is."

Courier said that Philippoussis is the definitive favorite.

"The match is on Mark's racket, win or lose," Courier said. "If he plays well he'll win. Tillstrom is playing well but if Mark serves and returns well I don't see how Tillstrom will beat him," Philippoussis said.

Philippoussis made 29 aces, 131 mph (211 kph) ace, a 138 mph (222 kph) ace, a 134 mph (216 kph) ace. The 138 mph (222 kph) was the fastest serve recorded on the ATP Tour this year.

"He has a tendency when he's closing match out or when he's behind to serve bigger," Courier said. "I was expecting him to serve huge in the last game and he did."

Sumon claimed three wickets conceding only 7 runs while Aliq took two giving away 35 runs.

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Rosset, unseeded, defeated title-holder Santoro, No 6 seed, 7-6, 7-5, while Federer also unseeded, ousted fourth-seeded Grosjean 6-3, 6-3.

Santoro held a set point in the first set against Rosset but volleyed out and never had another opportunity.

Rosset, a 29-year-old living in Monte Carlo, has collected five of his 13 ATP titles on French soil, and was happy to be meeting a compatriot in the Marseilles final.

"Roger's a friend of mine and a guy I appreciate," Rosset said. "Matches between people from the same country are rarely great. He'll be nervous tomorrow because it's his first final and me too."

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