

US Cup
Hosts lift
title

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, June 12: The United States defeated Mexico 3-0 Sunday to win the US Cup football tournament, ending Mexico's run of three straight victories in the event, reports AFP.

Mexico fielded a reserve team in the round-robin event because of injuries and club commitments. Head coach Miguel Lapuente stayed away, leaving the job to Hugo Sanchez.

The United States dominated Sunday's match before 45,008, played in 90 degree heat and 49 percent humidity that US coach Bruce Arena caused players to "hit the wall" physically in the 65th minute.

It was America's third US Cup title, the last was in 1995 when it beat Mexico 4-0. Both teams came into the winner-take-all game with wins over South Africa and a draw against Ireland.

Because of Mexico's failure to field a full-strength squad, Arena said US pride was on the line even more than usual against their southern neighbors.

"We had everything to lose and nothing to win," he said. "We would have been ridiculed had we lost."

Arena said his side was also short a few of his best players, those he hopes to insert for 2002 World Cup qualifying.

Cobi Jones, appearing in a US record 129th international set up the first goal in the 33rd minute, when he dribbled into the penalty area and passed to midfielder Earnie Stewart. Stewart ran wide and centered the ball back to unattended forward Brian McBride for an easy goal.

Jones also played a role in the second goal at the 76th minute. He forced his way through a pack of players and fired a shot that deflected off the right post, leaving the opportunistic Frankie Hejduk to run in and score.

Hejduk had been on the field for just three minutes. Substitute Ante Razov, who had been in the game for only four minutes, then put the result beyond any doubt with an 85th minute strike.

Sanchez said he was happy with his team's effort, but "disappointed with the final result."

"We wanted to win, but we had little time to prepare for the tournament. We gave 100 percent on the field. We came here with a mission, but we did not have the right arms and weapons to win."

Sukur Inter
bound?

ANKARA, June 12: Turkish international striker Hakan Sukur from UEFA Cup champions Galatasaray has reached agreement for a three-year contract with Italian Serie A side Inter Milan, the Turkish press reported Monday, reports AFP.

The contract, which will be signed in the Netherlands where the Turkish national team is participating in the Euro 2000, is worth 7.5 million dollars, the mass-circulation Sabah newspaper said.

The liberal Milliyet newspaper said that Sukur's manager Hakan Azman and Milan officials had signed a preliminary agreement after clearing up all hitches.

Galatasaray's spokesman Ali Durust said in Istanbul that he had heard reports concerning Sukur's involvement with Milan, but added that there had not been any official offer from the Italian club.

"We would like to reach agreement with Sukur (on a new contract). But if he wants to go, we might leave him. The player's choice is more important for us," Durust added, according to the Anatolia news agency.

The 28-year-old Sukur, nicknamed the 'Bull of the Bosphorus', has scored the most goals in the Turkish league for the past three years with 28 goals in 1997, 32 goals in 1998 and 19 goals in 1999.

He also carried Galatasaray to UEFA Cup glory on May 17 when the Istanbul club beat English Premiership club Arsenal in Copenhagen, becoming the first Turkish team to lift a major European trophy.

Napoli invite
Zola home

ROME, June 12: Diminutive Italian striker Gianfranco Zola could be on his way back to sleeping giants Napoli next season, according to reports Monday in the daily Corriere dello sport, reports AFP.

Zola played at Napoli for four seasons between 1989-1993 where he famously filled the boots of departing Argentine legend Diego Maradona before spending a further four successful years at Parma.

The veteran striker's current club Chelsea, who recently signed Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink for 15 million pounds, may off-load the 33-year-old to recuperate some of their outlay.

Zola, who won the player-of-the-year in his first season in the English Premiership, had also been linked with a move to Turkish outfit Fenerbahce but has always expressed a desire to finish his career in Italy or his native Sardinia.

Officials of the newly promoted Italian side are expected in London for negotiations this week.

Former Serie A champions Napoli lifted the Italian title in 1987 and 1990 but have spent the last two seasons in Serie B.

Goodwin comes good again



LONDON, June 12 (AFP/AP) - Murray Goodwin hit his second century against the West Indies in as many matches as Zimbabwe declared on 275 for eight at the end of the second day of the three-day fixture at Arundel Sunday.

Goodwin's 126 also followed his unbeaten 148 in the drawn second Test against England at Trent Bridge.

Goodwin hit 113 in the second Test against the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica in March.

West Indies were 12 without loss in their second innings after being dismissed for 407 earlier in the day. West Indies lead by 144 runs.

Opener Trevor Gripper ground-out to a painstaking 42. Dirk Viljoen hit 33 and Alistair Campbell raced to 31 as the West Indies back-up bowlers struggled.

By the return of Rose in the final session changed all that, as he made-up for some bad luck earlier in the day by trapping Viljoen and Muleki Nkala with successive deliveries.

McLean then sent back Goodwin and had Paul Strang brilliantly caught behind to prompt an intriguing declaration from Zimbabwe's skipper Andy Flower.

Opener Sherwin Campbell managed to add just for more to his overnight score before being run out for 146. Brian Lara top scored for the West Indies with 176 and shared 276 for the third wicket with Campbell.

Left-arm seamer Bryan Strang returned the best figures for Zimbabwe, grabbing 5-68.

The West Indies choose their side on Wednesday for the first Test at Edgbaston and it is expected to be a straight fight between Rose and McLean to partner Curtly Ambrose. Courtney

Walsh and Reon King, who are all sitting out this fixture. Rose produced life and movement from an easy-paced Arundel wicket and will be favourite to get the nod. Sherwin Campbell continued his excellent warm-up for the serious business of the tour by taking three catches at second slip to go along with his innings of 146.



M GOODWIN ... 126

The West Indies, whose final four first-innings wickets added 43, now have the chance to score quickly tomorrow and set Zimbabwe a challenging target.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the three-day tour match between West Indies and Zimbabwe on Sunday:

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 364-6)				
Campbell run out	146			
Griffith lbw b Johnson	6			
Chanderpaul c Campbell b Johnson	17			
Lara b B Strang	176			
Adams c Goodwin b B Strang	0			

Sarwan lbw b B Strang	1			
Jacobs lbw b Mbangwa	0			
Nagmootoo c Gripper b B Strang	28			
McLean lbw b P Strang	2			
Rose not out	13			
Collymore b B Strang	0			
Extras (b-2, lb-2, w-4, nb-10)	18			
Total (All out in 114.5 overs)	407			
Fall of wickets: 1-9; 2-55; 3-331; 4-331; 5-333; 6-338; 7-378; 8-383; 9-407				

Bowler				
Nkala	13	2	73	0
Johnson	22	9	58	2
B Strang	26.5	8	68	5
Mbangwa	21	4	73	1
P Strang	22	3	77	1
Viljoen	10	1	54	0

ZIMBABWE: First innings

Gripper c Griffith b Collymore	42			
Wishart c Campbell b Rose	9			
Goodwin c Chanderpaul b McLean	126			
A Campbell c S Campbell b McLean	31			
A Flower c Campbell b McLean	0			
Viljoen lbw b Rose	33			
Nkala lbw b Rose	0			
P Strang c Jacobs b McLean	0			
B Strang not out	5			
Extras (b-2, lb-1, nb-4)	17			
Total (For eight wickets declared in 83.5 overs)	275			

Fall of wickets: 1-23; 2-83; 3-153; 4-155; 5-258; 6-258; 7-258; 8-275

Did not bat: N Johnson, M Mbangwa

Bowler				
Rose	21	5	62	3
McLean	17.5	2	64	4
Collymore	13	4	34	1
Nagmootoo	14	1	52	0
Adams	15	3	38	0
Campbell	3	0	12	0

WEST INDIES: Second innings

Griffith not out	12			
Sarwan not out	0			
Extras	10			
Total (For no wicket in five overs)	12			
To bat: S Campbell, S Chanderpaul, B Lara, J Adams, R Jacobs, M Nagmootoo, N McLean, F Rose, C Collymore				
Bowler (to date)				
Strang	3	1	12	0
Mbangwa	2	2	0	0

Warne could be disciplined



SYDNEY, June 12 (AFP): Shane Warne could face disciplinary action from the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) for an alleged sexual harassment incident with a British woman.

Sydney that the Australian Test vice-captain would be questioned face-to-face by ACB chief executive Mal Speed, who is due to fly to London for an International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting.

"All we've got at the moment is a newspaper report," Speed said. "I won't do anything until I've spoken to Shane."

"It's not something I want to do over the phone. I'll listen to his side of the story in a face-to-face meeting."

The reports said Warne, who is playing county cricket in England for Hampshire, could face disciplinary action by the ACB if found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute.

Nurse Donna Wright, 22, told the Daily Mirror newspaper in London that Warne had made obscene phone calls to her after they met at a Leicester nightclub last month. Wright described the calls as "the most disgusting things I have ever heard."

"I had no idea who he was," she said. "I'm not a cricket fan and I had never heard of him."

"He was really unattractive."

He was pudgy and very tanned. He had dyed blond hair and I could see the roots. He seemed to permanently have a cigarette hanging out of his mouth."

Wright said she left the club but when she got home she found Warne had slipped his hotel key into her pocket accompanied by his mobile telephone number.



SHANE WARNE

She said she sent a text message to him asking what she should do with his key.

"That was the worst mistake I ever made," she said.

Wright said Warne's alleged messages were "perverted" and that she "could not believe that a man admired worldwide for his cricket could be so revolting". She added: "It was also very frightening because he was a complete stranger to me."

"He was very forceful," she said. "He was very direct, it was as though I would just do whatever he wanted. He was the Mr Big and assumed I would jump at the mere mention of his name... It seemed weird and a bit desperate."

When questioned at training in Southampton Sunday, Warne said: "There are two sides to every story and I have nothing to say."

Warne's off-field behaviour has cast a shadow over a brilliant career, which reached another milestone two months ago when he was named one of the five

greatest players of the century by Wisden Cricketer's Almanac.

The latest allegations add to a long line of scandals that include accepting cash from an Indian bookmaker, being caught smoking while under a non-smoking contract with a pharmaceutical company, refusing to eat local food in India, verbally abusing a 15-year-old New Zealand fan, and leaving sleazy messages on an ex-girlfriend's mobile phone.

All's well that ends well



PARIS, June 12 (AFP): Little did homesick 13-year-old Mary Pierce know that the tears she once shed in Paris for absent family and friends would eventually disappear -- to be replaced years later by tears of unbridled joy.

Old, unhappy memories dissolved Saturday when the now 25-year-old blonde with the Anglo-French origins milked a patriotic Centre Court to lift the French Open singles title by outclassing Spaniard Conchita Martinez 6-2, 7-5, ending a 33-year drought for the host nation in the process.

France had been waiting for a female champion here since Francoise Durr triumphed over Lesley Turner of Australia in the 1967 final.

And they went wild as sixth-seeded Pierce won her second Grand Slam singles title following victory at the 1995 Australian Open as she dominated the first set and then gritted her teeth in the second to convert her third match point, giving France a seventh women's triumph at Roland Garros.

When she first arrived in Paris as a child it seemed Mary Pierce and her adopted country was a love affair destined to end badly.

At her parent's instigation she had swapped a North American childhood for life under the tutelage of the French Tennis Federation and spent her days practising as a budding hopeful at Roland Garros before going back to a dormitory room.

"I couldn't really speak French. I didn't have any friends and I was by myself. It was tough. I probably cried every night," Pierce revealed.

The French and Pierce have always had a love hate relationship -- especially since she fluffed her first appearance in the final at Roland Garros six years ago, losing to another Spaniard, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

As the Canadian-born daughter of a French mother and an American father, the crowds here have never entirely accepted Pierce as one of their own.

That all changed when she raised the trophy aloft in front of a packed and adoring Centre Court before making a tearful winner's address in the language of Mollere.

"I have so many emotions that I don't feel anything," Pierce confessed after ousting Martinez in 1hr 52min.

"I never thought I'd win this tournament. It's amazing. So



MARY PIERCE

many emotions are attached to this tournament for me.

"In 1994 I was far too tense. I couldn't play my game. This time I was able to dictate things more. My nerves gave me energy."

Pierce, who put her friendship with doubles partner and world number one Martina Hingis on one side to knock out the Swiss miss in the semi-final, said she had wanted to win the tournament because it was such a special event -- not because she felt she needed to give France a home triumph.

The reason I wanted to win this tournament is not to be accepted. It's a part of who I am as being French. It's very emotional and very special for me," she said.

"I said to all my fans, to all the French people, that they have to support me until the end whether I win or lose. They have to be truly for me. They did it."

Pierce says her scintillating form is largely down to her re-discovery of Catholicism since she became engaged to Major League Baseball star Roberto Alomar.

She even wore rosary beads she purchased on a visit to the Dominican Republic on court throughout the tournament.

Pierce has had an up-and-down career, though her religion and her closeness to her brother and coach David have settled her down recently.

She said her brother had been a tower of strength.

"He's been fantastic to put up with me every day. We get along great."

Saturday's win in cool, overcast conditions gave Pierce her second title of the year after Hilton Head and the 15th singles success of her career.

She picked up a winner's cheque for 4,028,000 francs (600,000 dollars) while fifth-seeded Martinez takes home exactly half that sum for her efforts.

"I can't explain how I feel. It's just incredible. I'll never forget this," gasped Pierce, who raised both her arms to the air in triumph after sealing the title. She buried her head in her towel then rose, crossed herself - and saluted the crowd.

Pierce, whose Australian Open win in 1995 made her the first Frenchwoman to win a Grand Slam singles title in the Open era, can also bag doubles glory Sunday when she partners Hingis against 10th-seeded Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain and Paola Suarez of Argentina in the women's doubles final.

Lawyer not yet
agreed to help
out Malik

KARACHI, June 12: A top Pakistani lawyer said Monday he had not yet accepted former skipper Salim Malik's request to help him fight a life ban over match-fixing allegations.

"Malik has approached me once and that is all," Barrister Altaz Ahsan told AFP.

"It is still premature to say that I have accepted the request from Malik as neither I have formally been engaged by Malik nor have I seen the case file."

A judicial commission which probed match fixing allegations in Pakistani cricket last month imposed a life ban on Malik and fines on six other players including another former skipper, Wasim Akram.

On Friday Malik said he employed the services of Ahsan to challenge the verdict against him, but was waiting for official notification of the life ban.

A Lahore High Court judge, Malik Qayyum, who led the inquiry into match-fixing allegations, said in his report that there was enough evidence to show Malik's involvement in alleged match fixing.

Australian players Shane Warne, Tim May and Mark Waugh have said Malik offered them money to play badly in a 1995 Test in Karachi.

County cricket

LONDON, June 12 (AFP): Openers Marcus Trescothick and Jamie Cox carried table-toppers Somerset Sabres to a nine-wicket victory over Kent Spitfires in the National League Division One clash at Taunton on Sunday.

England hopeful Trescothick, who made an unbeaten 92, and Tasmanian Cox (62) put on 145 for the first wicket and made a mockery of Kent's struggle to 179 for nine.

Effective pace bowling from England's Andrew Caddick in a miserly spell of two for 15 in nine overs and Stefan Jones (three for 39) put Kent in trouble.

Visiting captain Matthew Fleming (63) inspired a mini-fightback to rescue his team from 112 for eight - but it was soon clear it was not going to be enough and Somerset sauntered home with almost 10 overs to spare.

Three-wicket hauls from Australian paceman Glenn McGrath and fellow quick bowler Kabir Ali helped Worcestershire Royals keep the pressure on Somerset at the top thanks to a 12-run win over Lancashire at Old Trafford.

Sound top-order batting helped Worcestershire reach 216 for seven, with Vikram Solanki (59 not) and opener Paul Pollard (40) having most success against a Lancashire attack for whom Andrew Flintoff took three for 41.

McGrath and Ali both emulated the England all-rounder - with the Australian Test star conceding just 11 runs in the process - although half-centuries from Flintoff (64) and evergreen Neil Fairbrother (75) could not save Lancashire.

Konterman
to stay at
Rangers

GLASGOW, June 12: Bert Konterman revealed Sunday he plans to finish his career at Rangers after indicating his 4.5million pound (7.2m dollar) transfer from Feyenoord could be the last move he ever makes, reports AFP.

The 29-year-old Dutch international centre-half, currently part of the co-hosts' Euro 2000 squad, agreed to join the Ibrox outfit earlier this month on a four-year contract.

Konterman, who is viewed as a transfer coup of the summer after becoming the most expensive defender in the Glasgow club's history, will be 33 when his new deal expires.

Interviewed in the 'Sunday Herald', Konterman said: "At this moment I think I will end my career with Rangers either at 33 or maybe around 35 or 36."

"Maybe I will sign another Rangers contract for one or two years after my first contract. I will see how my body is doing."

"This was a very important summer for me because I felt it was my last to make a transfer."

Feyenoord's first reaction to interest in Konterman, who only made his Dutch international debut in March of last year at 28, was to price him out of the market.

Real Madrid expressed an interest in his services at the end of last season and they were quoted a figure of around 7m pounds (11.2m dollars) - but Konterman insists he has no grudge against Feyenoord for that.

He added: "The price Feyenoord were asking was pretty high for a 28-year-old as I was then, so it was a move which never looked like happening."

"Rangers first showed an interest in me this January and by then the price was going down. I had hoped at one point to play in England, but I'm happy about going to Rangers."

Konterman is a close friend of Rangers left-back Arthur Numan and admits the Dutch connection at the club was a significant factor in his decision to opt for Scotland.

He said: "When I heard about Rangers' interest I didn't have to think about it for too long. I have seen how Arthur and Giovanni van Bronckhorst have developed into better players under Dick Advocaat."

"Dick is very straight and I like that. He's honest and knows what he wants. He is determined to take Rangers to a higher level and I hope I can contribute to that."



Nicolas Anelka, the French striker, going past the out stretched hand of Danish custodian Peter Schmeichel during their Euro 2000 fixture on June 11. — AFP photo

Penalty playing on Denizli's mind



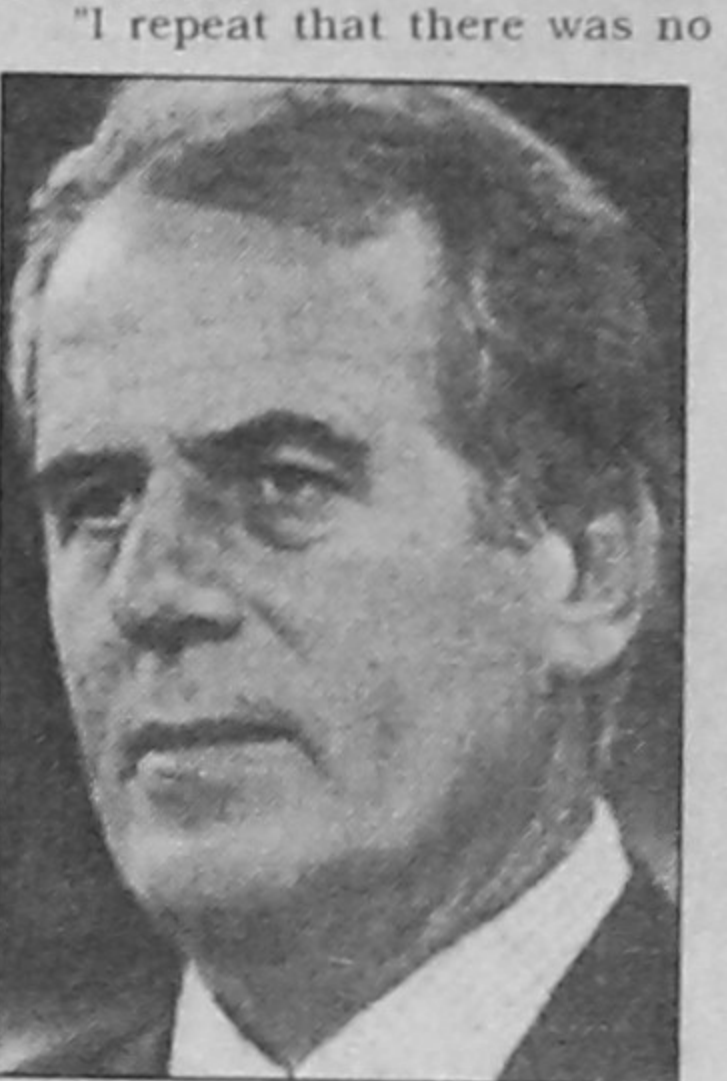
ARNHEM, Netherlands, June 12: Turkey coach Mustafa Denizli was left fuming here Sunday after what he called an "unforgivable" refereeing decision by Scot Hugh Dallas handed Italy a controversial 2-1 victory in their opening Group B clash, reports AFP.

Filippo Inzaghi's spot-kick after 70 minutes proved decisive although his fall under a challenge from Ogun Temizkenoglu to win the penalty was at best theatrical.

Buruk Okan had earlier equalised for Turkey with a textbook header after a spectacular 52nd-minute opener by Italy's Antonio Conte.

But Inzaghi's spot kick - or to be more precise the manner in which he won it - proved to be the incident that settled the encounter, leaving Italy level at the top of Group B with co-hosts Belgium and Turkey struggling at the bottom of Sweden.

"At this level it's unforgivable," raged Denizli, who made no attempt to hide his emotions. "The whole match turned on one bad decision by the referee. There's no way it was a



MUSTAFA DENIZLI

way it was a penalty and the consequences are serious.

"But we must restore our confidence and win our next match and all because of a foul which never took place."

Even Inzaghi himself admitted luck was on the side of the Italians: "This penalty was a lucky one. It was a debatable penalty but we reacted very well."

Lanka on 'fix' alert



COLOMBO, June 12 (AFP/Reuters): Sri Lanka's newly elected cricket board Monday announced the setting up of an independent panel to investigate and prevent match fixing, a problem plaguing the sport world-wide.

Board President Thilanga Sumathipala said Sri Lanka had been spared allegations of match fixing but he wanted to set up a panel that could recommend ways to ensure it did not creep into the game here.

"We want to have a committee that will make recommendations and we hope to publish them and also go to the ICC (International Cricket Council) and ask them to adopt such systems to prevent the fraud of match fixing," Sumathipala said.

He said no specific measures were being taken even as the country prepared to play its 100th Test against Pakistan here on Wednesday.

Five members of the visiting Pakistan team were fined last month after being named in a report on match-fixing in Pakistan.

"I am not a policeman who

can go round looking for bookies at the grounds," Sumathipala said. "But, I am very proud that our players have never been implicated in this type of fraud."

The Pakistan team, which arrived here Friday night to play three Test matches and take part in a triangular one-day series with South Africa and Sri Lanka, imposed a strict call monitoring system amid allegations that bookies were getting through to players on the telephone.

Captain Moin Khan refused to comment today on alleged match-fixing involving two of his country's World Cup matches in England.

The (Pakistan Cricket) Board has told us only to concentrate on cricket," Moin, then the vice-captain of the team, told at a press conference in Colombo. The then captain Wasim Akram, who is also on tour in Sri Lanka, was not present at the time.

Questions were raised about Sumathipala's own election here Sunday amid allegations that his family business of horse racing and betting prevented him from holding high office in the cricket board. But