

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 hints.

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 Premier 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 Sardegna.

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): Murray Goodwin hit his second century against the West Indies in as many matches as Zimbabwe declared on 275 for eight on 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 a painstaking 42, Bird Viljoen hit 33 and Alastair Campbell raced to 31 as the West Indies back-up bowlers struggled.

But 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 Mhuleki 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 156 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 Curly 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

Chanderpaul c Campbell

b Johnson 17

Lara b B Strang 176

Adams c Goodwin b B Strang 0

WEST INDIES: Second innings

Griffith not out 12

Sarwan not out 0

Extras : 0

Total : (For no wicket in five overs) 12

To bat : S Campbell, S Chanderpaul, B Lara, J Adams, R Jacobs, M Nagamootoo, N McLean, F Rose, C Collymore

Bowler (to date) **O M R W**

Strang 3 0 12 0

Mbanga 2 2 3 0

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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 newspapers reported Monday 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 podgy 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.

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."

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) 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 evener Neil Fairbrother (75) could not save Lancashire.

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.

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SHANE WARNE

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Saturday'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

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 Mollie.

"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

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.

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 ousting Spaniard Conchita Martinez 6-2, 7-5 - ending a 33-year drought for the host nation in the process.

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When she first arrived in Paris as a child it seemed Mary Pierce and her adopted country were 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.

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.

Pierce, who put her friend 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.

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, 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 Ruzici of Spain and Paolo Sorrenti of Argentina in the women's doubles final.