

Sport

England v Germany

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in 34 years because it's our next chance. I don't believe in fate and history - it's up to our players to play how we know they can on Saturday."

Both teams could still qualify for the quarter-finals with a draw but the two coaches have stressed they will be going for a victory.

For Germany, Dietmar Hammann replaces the ageing Thomas Haessler in midfield and the promising Sebastian Deisler was named on Friday instead of Thomas Linke as right wingback.

Hammann says the Germans have identified David Beckham as England's danger man. "Beckham is England's one great player and if we can shut him out we can win the game," said Hammann.

Wing back Christian Ziege will man-mark Beckham, whose crosses provided both England goals against Portugal, and their duel is likely to be one of the highlights of a game considered high-risk by police fearing the two sets of supporters' reputation for hooliganism.

Despite widespread criticism of the current German side, the players, as always, can be relied upon to raise their game when it matters, and it always matters against England.

"We have little to lose because everyone has written us off already. We can play without pressure," said Kirsten, who will be winning his 49th cap for Germany after winning 49 for East Germany before reunification.

England tumble

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England had made 26 when the 37-year-old Walsh reached a new landmark - his 450th Test wicket.

Ramprakash, on 18, inside edged a ball onto his pad to give Hinds a simple catch at short leg.

Atherton then fell to a classic delivery.

Walsh got one to move away off the pitch and squared up the former England captain who could only edge straight to Jacobs. The Lancashire batsman was out for 20 and England were 44 for two.

This soon became 45 for three when Graeme Hick's poor record against the West Indies continued with a seven-ball duck.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the first day of the opening Test between England and the West Indies at Edgbaston on Thursday:

ENGLAND: First innings

| | O | M | R | W |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Atherton c Jacobs b Walsh | 18 | | | |
| Atherton c Jacobs b Walsh | 20 | | | |
| Hussain c Jacobs b Rose | 15 | | | |
| Hick c Campbell b Walsh | 0 | | | |
| Stewart b Ambrose | 6 | | | |
| Knight c Lara b King | 26 | | | |
| Flintoff c Lara b Walsh | 16 | | | |
| Croft c Jacobs b Walsh | 18 | | | |
| Caddick not out | 21 | | | |
| Gough run out | 23 | | | |
| Giddins c Jacobs b King | 0 | | | |
| Extras (lb-6; w-1; nb-9) | 16 | | | |
| Total: (All out in 69 overs) | 179 | | | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-44, 3-45, 4-57, 5-82, 6-112, 7-112, 8-134, 9-173 | | | | |
| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
| Ambrose | 20.5 | 10 | 32 | 1 |
| Walsh | 21 | 9 | 36 | 5 |
| King | 14.1 | 2 | 60 | 2 |
| Rose | 13 | 3 | 45 | 1 |

WEST INDIES: First innings

| | O | M | R | W |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Campbell not out | 28 | | | |
| Gough lbw b Gough | 0 | | | |
| Hinds c Hussain b Caddick | 12 | | | |
| Lara not out | 6 | | | |
| Extras (lb-3; nb-1) | 4 | | | |
| Total: (For 2 wkt in 19 overs) | 50 | | | |
| To bat: S Chanderpaul, J Adams, R Jacobs, F Rose, C Ambrose, R King, C Walsh | | | | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-24 | | | | |
| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
| Gough | 8 | 2 | 20 | 1 |
| Caddick | 6 | 2 | 14 | 1 |
| Giddins | 3 | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| Croft | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

Cronje points

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nings, but relented 45 minutes into play. He immediately sent a message to Aronstam advising that "the game is on."

It was too late for Aronstam to bet on the game but he nonetheless gave Cronje a leather jacket and 50,000 rands. However, Cronje said, he did not manipulate the result of the Test, which South Africa lost, but merely made the deal with Hussain to ensure a lively match.

Cronje said he was introduced to "Sanjay", subsequently identified by Indian police as Sanjay Chawla, by Johannesburg-based Hamid Cassiem.

At a meeting in Durban, Cassiem and Sanjay pressed him to supply information and said "I could make a lot of money if we would lose a match" during the triangular series between South Africa, England and Zimbabwe.

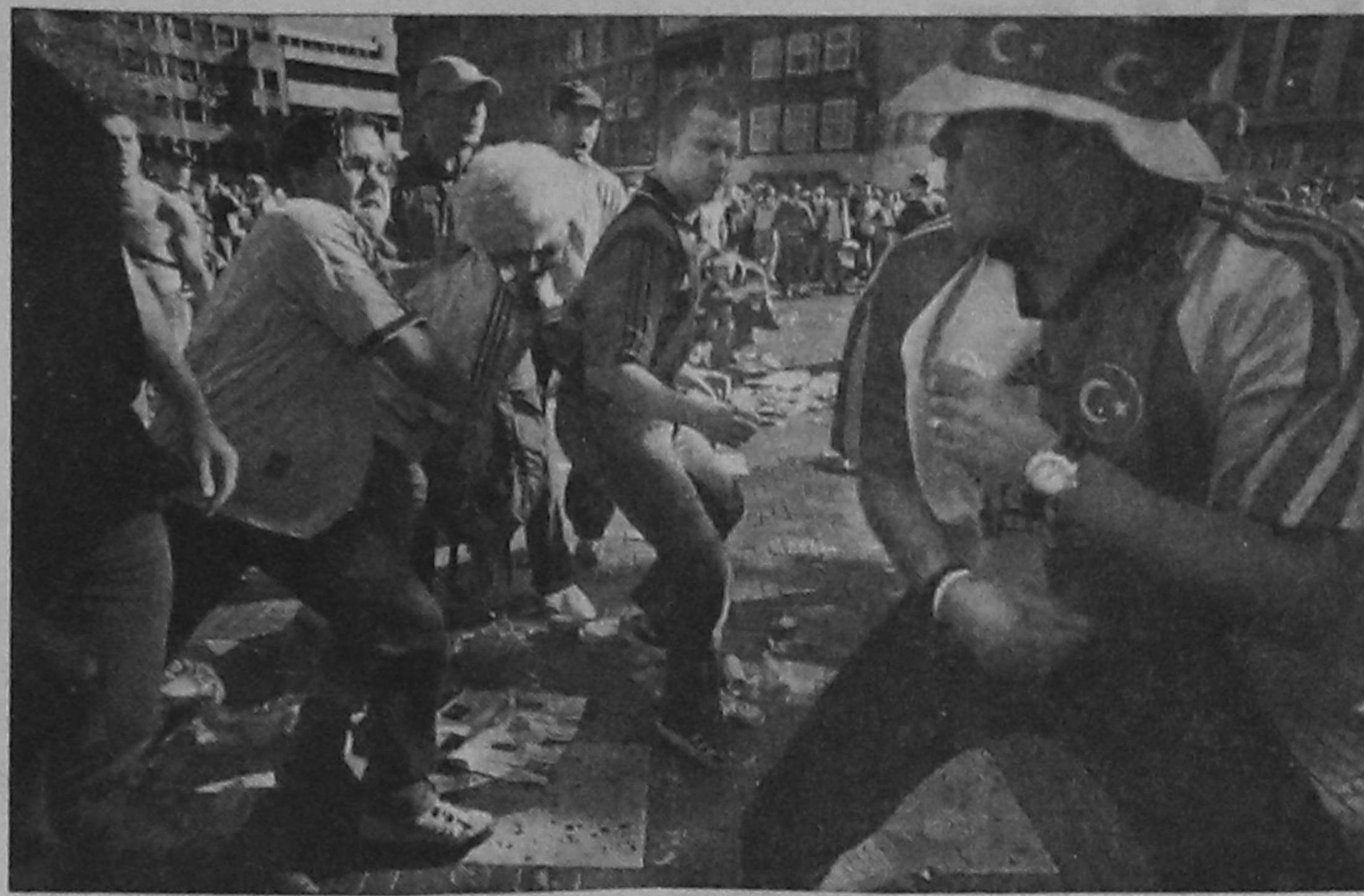
"I said I was not prepared to do it unless we were assured of a place in the final," Cronje said, adding that he was "spinning them along."

Sanjay handed him a box containing US dollars. The money was not counted but Cronje said he was told it was "about 10,000 but may have been 15,000."

Sanjay and Hamid made many calls to Cronje when South Africa toured India soon afterwards. "I realise now that the purpose of the payment was to 'hook' me for the Indian tour."

After Cronje's confession Judge Edwin King adjourned the hearings until Tuesday, following a request from Cronje's legal team that cross examination be postponed "for medical and other reasons."

Cronje told the commission he was worried about his safety because he had received death threats.



SORRY SIGHT: Swedish and Turkish hooligans clash in Eindhoven on June 15 before their teams met in a Euro 2000 fixture. —AFP photo

Keegan admonishes press



SPA, Belgium, June 16: England coach Kevin Keegan, an acknowledged master of public relations, appeared to be feeling the strain ahead of Saturday's showdown with Germany when he rapped the press for their treatment of his back-up staff on Thursday, reports AFP.

Keegan said he had been upset by the hostile inquisition handed out by English journalists to his tactical adviser Les Reed 24 hours later following his team's dramatic collapse in the 3-2 defeat by Portugal on Monday.

The England coach, clearly trying to choose his words carefully, apologised to Football association chief executive David Davies sitting to his left at a packed press conference, for "speaking his mind" before taking reporters to task.

"I think some of you should be very careful," he said. "I don't mind if you give me a going over. I expect that. It's part of the job."

"And if we lose to Germany on Saturday I will be back here answering your questions as openly and honestly as I always try to do."

"But we fetch people up here every day for you to talk to so that you can fill your newspapers when you've got nothing else."

"But to interrogate someone is something else. I'm just saying you should be careful."

Asked if he thought victory would make him as a manager, Keegan replied with a half-smile: "No, but it might buy a bit more time with you people (journalists)."

Keegan has talked a good game since taking over from Glenn Hoddle at the start of last year, but in an occasionally tense press conference the affable and widely liked England coach dodged more critical lines of enquiry.

Asked if he had felt under more pressure now than he did before walking out on Newcastle United, he said: "What pressure? The only pressure was whether I would sign a contract."

On Saturday's match, Keegan said he had nothing but the greatest respect for German football having spent three

years there as a player with Hamburgh.

"Both teams live off commitment and honesty and I am expecting exactly that in Charlton. It should be a cracking match."

"If the England fans get behind us with the fantastic support they gave us in Eindhoven on Monday right up to the last minute and the German fans do the same we could have one of the greatest atmospheres of all time," he added.

Keegan said he had been very upset to hear that Germany's captain and chief goalscorer, Oliver Bierhoff, would probably miss the match with a calf injury.

"I mean this sincerely - I am never pleased when a player gets injured, even less so when

he is one of mine," said the 49-year-old former Liverpool star.

"I'm disappointed for him and I hope he gets over it quickly."

Keegan said he fully understood the great sense of public expectation back home in the build-up to the match, but said the importance of England v Germany games was always blown out of proportion.

"It is a big game, always has been, always will be," he added. "When I was back in England, every time I took a taxi, the first thing the cabby would say to me is 'make sure you beat the Germans'."

"They never mentioned Portugal or Romania, only Germany. But I suppose the cabby was right - they always are - we must beat the Germans."

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