

## Refs for the last group games

BRUSSELS, June 19: European football governing body UEFA Sunday named the referees for the final six Euro 2000 group matches to be played Tuesday and Wednesday, reports AFP.

**June 20:** England v Romania (Group A); Urs Meier (Swi)

**June 20:** Portugal v Germany (Group A); Dick Jol (Ned)

**June 21:** Yugoslavia v Spain (Group C); Gunter Benko (Aut)

**June 21:** Slovenia v Norway (Group C); Graham Poll (Eng)

**June 21:** Denmark v Czech Republic (Group D); Gamal el-Ghander (Egy)

**June 21:** France v Netherlands (Group D); M. Anders Frisk (Swe)

Referees for the quarter-finals will be named on June 22

## CARD-HOLDERS

ROTTERDAM, June 19 (Reuters): Red and yellow cards at Euro 2000 after Sunday's matches.

**Red:** Patrik Andersson (Sweden), Radoslaw Latul (Czech Republic), Sinisa Mihajlovic (Yugoslavia), Mateja Kezman (Yugoslavia).

**Yellow:** 2 — Giovanni Van Bronckhorst (Netherlands), George Hagi (Romania), Darko Milanic (Slovenia), Luc Nils (Belgium), Nico Van Kerckhoven (Belgium), Michael Schjoberg (Denmark), Pavel Nedved (Czech Republic), Karel Poborsky (Czech Republic), Tomas Rempala (Czech Republic), Frank de Boer (Netherlands), Adrian Ilie (Romania), Paul Ince (England), Vitor Baia (Portugal), Joseba Etxeberria (Spain), Michel Salgado (Spain), Andre Bergholmo (Norway), Antonio Conte (Italy), Gianluca Zambrotta (Italy), Marc Wilmots (Belgium), Johan Mjallby (Sweden), Kaya Saat (Turkey), Lilian Thuram (France), Peter Gabriel (Czech Republic), Jiri Nemec (Czech Republic), Marek Jankulovski (Czech Republic), Michael Reiziger (Netherlands), Bert Kontermann (Netherlands), Edwin van der Sar (Netherlands), Allan Nielsen (Denmark), Cosmin Contra (Romania), Dan Petrescu (Romania), Luis Figo (Portugal), David Beckham (England), Jens Jeremies (Germany), Markus Babel (Germany), Miran Pavlin (Slovenia), Dion Novak (Slovenia), Amir Karic (Slovenia), Agustin Aranzabal (Spain), Ivan Helguera (Spain), Sava Jokanovic (Yugoslavia), Vladimir Jugovic (Yugoslavia), Ljubinko Drulovic (Yugoslavia), Albert Nadj (Yugoslavia), Erik Mykland (Norway), Erik Bakke (Norway).

**Pioneer football**  
Madartek Sangsard earned a comfortable 5-1 victory over Dikusha SC in the Mahin Apparel Pioneer football league at the Basaboo Tarun Sangha Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Habibur struck two and Motahar, Enamul and Rawshan netted one goal each for the winners while Enamul Haq scored a consolation goal for the losers.

The day's another match between Murapara KC and Arunudoya Jubo Sangha ended in a 2-2 draw at the same venue.

Tanveer Hossain scored two goals for Murapara while Harunur Rashid and Saiful netted one goal each for Arunudoya.

**WHO'S GOOD & WHO'S BAD**  
BRUSSELS, June 19 (AFP): Heroes and villains after completion of the second round of group matches at Euro 2000 Tuesday:

## HEROES

### ALAN SHEARER (ENGLAND)

Much-vaunted by the press Shearer scored the goal that helped England beat Germany 1-0, their first win in a major game with their arch-rivals since the 1966 World Cup final.

Shearer has been under constant fire from the British press after some less than impressive performances.

But his goal against the Germans has put England in a position where they should reach the last eight.

**THIERRY HENRY (FRANCE)**

Henry has carried on in Euro 2000 where he left off in the English Premiership with a goal in the opening 3-0 win over Denmark and scoring one and making one against the Czech Republic.

Ever-the-perfectionist Henry had harsh words for himself after missing an easy chance for the world champions against the Czechs when the score was 1-0.

But French fans will be encouraged by some parallels with France '98.

Henry also scored in both of France's opening games in France '98 — against South Africa and Saudi Arabia — and the score in the opening match with the South Africans, as against Denmark, was 3-0.

**DINO ZOFF (ITALY)**

Zoff defied his critics in the Italian media by steering the 'Squadra Azzurra' into the quarter-finals with ease — the first team to reach the second phase.

The 1982 World Cup winning goalkeeper has also proved vindicated in his selection policy with unheralded players like Stefano Fiore justifying Zoff's faith.

He was also statesmanlike in his reaction to the news that England are set to play Italy in the Heysel Stadium.

**ZLATKO ZAHOVIC (SLOVENIA)**

He may be representing the smallest nation ever to qualify for a European Championships but Zahovic is level with Yugoslavia's Savo Milosevic as tournament top scorer on three goals.

He also has an assist to his name, having fired in the freekick for Miran Pavlin's header against Yugoslavia.

And he had the most audacious attempt on goal yet when he attempted to chip Spanish keeper Santiago Canizares from just inside the halfway line.

**BOUDEWIJN ZENDEN (HOLLAND)**

Zenden has fully justified his inclusion by Dutch coach Frank Rijkaard ahead of Marc Overmars.

He was one of few 'Orange' stars to shine in the close-fought opening win over the Czech Republic.

In the 3-0 romp over Denmark Zenden's superb cross set up Ronald de Boer for Holland's second before Zenden himself scored the third.

**FILIP DE WILDE (BELGIUM)**

A villain in the first round of games after his blunder allowed Johan Mjallby to score the simplest of goals in the 2-1 win over Sweden in the tournament opener De Wilde redeemed himself against Italy.

De Wilde made arguably the save of the tournament when he first blocked Paolo Maldini's shot against Italy before



England team's physiotherapist helping out striker Alan Shearer (R) during a training session in Spa on June 18. —AFP photo

## Ribbeck the worst German?



CHARLEROI, Belgium, June 19: Erich Ribbeck risks becoming Germany's worst coach in more than three decades of European championships following the 1-0 defeat to England here, reports AFP.

Not since 1968, when both West and East Germany failed, have the Germans not managed to reach the quarter-finals of this competition and all this comes in the German Football Federation's (DFB) centenary year.

Yet the head of the DFB Egidius Braun believes Germany could still shake off their recent slump.

"We have got past the worst of it like Italy, France and England have all done in the past," Braun said in an interview with German sports agency SID the day after their defeat.

We are very capable of getting out of this hole, I am profoundly convinced."

As far as the future career of Ribbeck, Braun added: "The current coach will finish Euro 2000. After that we will see. In any case I will not make any decision on my own but will consult experts and friends in the next few days."

The DFB president does not think Germany's part in the violence in Belgium will in any way affect their bid to stage the 2006 World Cup, the decision of which will be announced at FIFA headquarters in Zurich on July 6.

"On the contrary, according to information I have, Germans were only implicated in very isolated cases," Braun added.

"I would like the thank the police, the police on the borders, politicians, supporters, associations and social workers. They have all contributed so that the image of a violent Germany is not making a world tour through the media."

DFB vice-president and head of the country's Euro 2000 delegation Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder said it was clear the national football team would need rebuilding.

"We don't have to field 11 completely new players but we need younger players and I'm thinking of (Michael) Ballack, (Sebastian) Deisler and (Jens) Notowitz for example."

Ribbeck told a press conference at their base in Vaals, Germany on Sunday: "Apart

of a nation with two front page headlines - 'It's over?' and 'Germany cries.'"

There is past evidence in major championships however that an initial crisis does not preclude eventual success.

In the 1982 World Cup in Spain, they lost to Algeria and were described as schoolboy players in the German press, but went on to reach the final where they lost to Italy.

In their World Cup winning year of 1990, they were far from impressive throughout the tournament, scoring very few goals in open play and relied on freekicks and their penalty prowess to earn their third world title.

In Euro 96, they had many injuries, the team was squabbling and their performances on the pitch were not poor.

Yet they beat England on penalties in the semi-finals before a double from substitute Oliver Bierhoff earned them a comeback 2-1 win in the final over Czech Republic.

Germany must beat Portugal in Rotterdam on Tuesday by a bigger margin than an England loss to Romania if they are to avoid elimination.

The signs from Saturday's match were that without the influence of Bierhoff, who is out of the championship after injuring his right calf muscle, the Germans have little punch up front to fire in a goal spree.

Perhaps Sol Campbell, imperious in England's defence on Saturday, summed up how it's never over till it's over with the Germans. "The Germans just never die, they just go on and on."

**Wenger says no thanks**

BERLIN, June 19 (AFP): Arsenal's Arsene Wenger has ruled out taking over as coach of the German national side after Euro 2000 finals.

In an interview published Monday by Kicker magazine, Wenger said he had no intention of taking over from Erich Ribbeck who is widely expected to stand down after Euro 2000.

from Ulf Kirsten (34) and Lothar Matthaus (39), no other players were over 30. Clearly Ribbeck had forgotten about 31-year-old keeper Oliver Kahn.

"I think we are in a period of transition. In my eyes, there are no other young talented players in the Bundesliga capable of playing for the national team except those who are already there. I regret it but that is the situation."

"You could have someone with 20 years experience or a youngster as German coach, but I do not see how that would change anything."

The German press was mourning the loss. Bild am Sonntag summed up the mood

scrambling back to save the rebound from Filippo Inzaghi. Bizarrely — just as his clanger against Sweden did not prevent his team from winning — his heroics were in vain against Italy, who emerged 2-0 victors.

## VILLAINS

England fans have lived down to their reputation again at Euro 2000 and while Germany supporters take some of the blame for the crowd trouble in Charleroi it is England fans who have again led the world in being arrested and expelled.

Fifteen years after the Heysel disaster in Brussels where a charge by Liverpool supporters caused the deaths of 39 mainly Italian fans it is once more English supporters who are causing mayhem in Belgium.

It remains to be seen if the mass expulsions under Belgium's zero-tolerance policy will have the desired effect and any repeat of the disturbances will lead to the team's expulsion from the tournament, UEFA said Sunday.

**BOGDAN STELEA (ROMANIA)**

The Romanian goalkeeper must take the lion's share of the blame for his side's likely exit from Euro 2000.

First Stelea watched Mehmet Scholl's shot cruise into his top right-hand corner for Germany's equaliser in the 1-1 draw in a match Romania should have won.

Then Stelea was hopelessly out of position when Costin's injury-time goal secured a 1-0 win for Portugal and now Romania need to beat England — and hope Germany do not pull off a better result against Portugal — if they are to qualify.

**HUGH DALLAS (REFeree)**

After awarding the dubious penalty that allowed Filippo Inzaghi to give Italy a winning spot kick against Turkey Dallas gave another undistinguished performance in Yugoslavia's 1-0 victory over Norway.

Dallas did not clamp down on blatant timewasting tactics of a Yugoslavia outfit that bent every rule in the book as they did everything they could to spoil the game as a spectacle.

"The referee needs to show a yellow and then a red card if it happens again to put a stop to these incidents," railed Norway coach Nils Johan Semb.

**MATEJA KEZMAN (YUGOSLAVIA)**

Kezman saw red in just 44 seconds when he was sent off in the Euro 2000 match with Norway.

The 21-year-old Partizan Belgrade striker came on in the 88th minute of a bruising Group C encounter.

And with his first intervention, Kezman dived in with his studs up to catch Norwegian midfielder Erik Mykland a painful blow on the ankle with a red card the response.

**TURKEY AND SWEDEN**

This dreadful match had absolutely nothing to commend it. The 0-0 draw is the only goalless fixture so far in the tournament and skill and technique was noticeable only by its absence.

On this form few fears will be shed if both sides are eliminated after the final round of fixtures.

## Flower flays Gloucester

GLOUCESTER, England, June 19: Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower made an unbeaten 116 as the tourists continued their domination of this first-class match against Gloucestershire here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Andy was helped in no small measure by his brother Grant as they peppered the boundary boards with a stand of 170 in 27 overs before Grant retired on 76 with a minor finger injury.

Andy Flower opted not to enforce the follow-on after Gloucestershire had been bowled out for 167 in their first innings, a mighty 401 runs behind.

Batting practice was deemed more important and Flower led the way with 15 fours and two sixes in his 129 ball innings as Zimbabwe declared on 258 for two.

With a nominal target of 660 to chase for victory, Gloucestershire closed the third day on 98 for four.

It has been a chastising experience for a youthful Gloucestershire side, which features only four first-team regulars.

Their bowlers again suffered heavily on a sweltering day as Zimbabwe rattled along at over five runs an over.

Opener Craig Wishart set the tone with nine fours in his 32-ball innings of 40 before he edged a Ben Gannon delivery to Jack Russell behind the stumps.

Trevor Gripper departed in the next over, when Russell claimed a catch from Jon Lewis, but that was the end of Gloucestershire's success in the field.

Grant Flower's innings came from 114 balls and included 10 fours and a six, which was fired over long-on from the left-arm spin of Tom Cotterell.

Andy Flower reached his century with a cut to the third man boundary off spinner Martyn Ball and when he declared the innings at tea, he had faced 129 deliveries in a flawless 116.

Gloucestershire's top order again missed the chance to impress against some accurate bowling from Heath Streak and Pommie Mbangwa.

Streak added to his five-wicket haul from the first innings by having Dominic Hewson caught at gully and bowling Matt Windows with a delivery that kept low.

Imraan Mohammed, son of Gloucestershire and Pakistan great Sadiq, out for a duck in the first innings stayed 13 overs the second time around, but had only made four when he fell lbw to Mbangwa.

It got worse for Gloucestershire when Chris Taylor departed lbw to Paul Strang's leg-spin.

With acting captain Tim Hancock unable to bat due to a fractured knuckle on his left hand, Gloucestershire appear to be facing a heavy defeat.

## White back with a bang

LONDON, June 19: England all-rounder Craig White returned to action with a devastating bowling display for Yorkshire in the National League First Division on Sunday, reports AFP.

Out of action for nearly five weeks after a series of mishaps, including a black-out, the Australian-born White claimed a hat-trick as Yorkshire bowled out Kent for 139 to win by 24 runs.

After an opening spell of five overs for 12 runs White struck in the 42nd over.

He started his blitz by ending a dangerous stand between former England one-day international Matthew Fleming and Paul Nixon, which had yielded 41 runs, by having Fleming caught at backward point for 29.

White then gained lbw decisions against Min Patel and David Masters with his next two deliveries to claim the first hat-trick of his career in this form of cricket.

He finished with three for 27, supplementing fine bowling stints by paceman Chris Silverwood (3-16) and James Middlebrook, who took three for 24 with his off-spin.

Kent were always behind the required rate and their fragile batting was held together by Indian Rahul Dravid, who made 49 from 88 balls before being lbw to the impressive Matthew Hoggard.

Also in Division One, David Sales produced a match-winning performance as Northamptonshire ended Somerset's unbeaten record with a 22-run win.

The 22-year-old, currently struggling to find his form in the County Championship, blazed his way to 72 from 55 balls and boosted Northants to 251 for eight in sweltering conditions at Wantage Road.

It proved decisive as Somerset, who opened their campaign with four straight victories — including one against Northamptonshire at Taunton last month — were dismissed in the final over for 229 despite Peter Bowler's batting 69.

Hampshire's winter imports Australian spin legend Shane Warne and England paceman Alan Mullally took six wickets between them to end a run of five successive National League Division Two defeats.

Jon Lewis led a valiant attempt by Durham to overhaul Hampshire's 222 for five with an unbeaten half century.

Lewis was unbeaten on 55 when last man Neil Killeen was out to the last ball of the penultimate over leaving Hampshire winners by 18 runs.

# Henry highly regarded



WAVRE, June 19: It's often been said that France won the World Cup without a true forward. Thanks to Thierry Henry, the same won't be said of Roger Lemerre's team if the French go all the way at Euro 2000, reports AFP.

France go into their third Group D match, against the Netherlands on Wednesday, already assured of a place in the quarter-finals.

Henry might not play in Amsterdam — Lemerre has indicated that he might rest key players — but the Arsenal striker's goals in wins over Denmark and the Czech Republic have gone a long way to seal the world champions' place in the last eight.

Chosen as man-of-the-match after both games, the 22-year-old's performances are being praised from inside and outside the French camp.

"Right now he is playing at full throttle," Lemerre said. "It seems that he has really matured and I am not surprised because he has a high quality coach at Arsenal who has guided him to the top level. At the moment he is exceptional."

Dutch winger Marc Overmars, who could come up against his Arsenal teammate in Amsterdam, is also impressed with Henry's Euro 2000 exploits.

"You have to be open to new ideas and Henry is always ready to listen and learn," Overmars said.

said. "That is rare among modern players."

The co-host has also booked a place in the quarter-finals but needs to win in Amsterdam to win the group.

Henry hasn't spoken with Overmars or Dennis Bergkamp, his other Dutch teammate at Arsenal, about Wednesday's ribbing with Edgar Davids, his old friend at Juventus.

Meanwhile, Overmars has a selection tip for France.

"If I was Roger Lemerre I would always start with Henry and Nicolas Anelka because speed is paramount in modern soccer," he said.

Henry, who also set up Youri Djorkaeff's match-winning goal in the 2-1 win against the Czechs, has completed a remarkable return to form after an 18-month absence from the French team.

Henry's three goals made him France's top scorer at the last World Cup but the Paris-born player's career quickly went off the rails.

A poor season at Monaco was followed by an unhappy spell in Turin, where he played in a deeper midfield position.

It was Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger, Henry's former boss at Monaco, who persuaded the player to switch to a central striking role and Henry says he is a far better player than in 1998.

"Then, I was practically making my debut for France," he said. "I have developed mentally. I am much tougher."

Henry trained behind closed doors with his French teammates on Monday.

"I have never felt so good," he said. "I am playing at my top level and have the impression that if I attempt something I have never tried before, it will still succeed."

Indeed, electric pace was key to Henry's goals against Denmark and the Czech Republic: on both occasions he sprinted behind central defenders, made to look static, before slipping the ball past the keeper.

The former Monaco and Juventus player seems to save his best goalkeeping form for the big occasions.

Five of Henry's seven international goals for France have come in the finals of the World Cup or European Championships. In one season at Monaco, he scored only four league goals but seven in the European Champions League.

"It's true that I like big competitions," Henry said. "In friendly matches I know that a defeat is not important, that it doesn't mean lost points or elimination. On the other hand when there is a real competition I feel at the top."

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