

Sport

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 B): Dick Jol (Ned)

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

June 21: Slovenia v Norway (Group D): Graham Poll (Eng)

June 21: Denmark v Czech Republic (Group E): Gamal el-Ghandour (Egy)

June 21: France v Netherlands (Group F): 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), Radoslav Latal (Czech Republic), Sinisa Mihajlovic (Yugoslavia), Mateja Kezman (Yugoslavia).

Yellow: 2 — Giovanni Van Bronckhorst (Netherlands), Gheorghe Hagi (Romania), Darko Milanic (Slovenia), 1 — Gert Verheyen (Belgium), Luc Nilis (Belgium), Nico Van Kerckhoven (Belgium), Michael Schjønberg (Denmark), Pavel Nedved (Czech Republic), Karel Poborsky (Czech Republic), Tomas Recka (Czech Republic), Frank de Boer (Netherlands), Adrian Ilie (Romania), Paul Ince (England), Vitor Baia (Portugal), Joseba Etxeberria (Spain), Michel Salgado (Spain), Andre Bergdom (Norway), Antonio Conte (Italy), Gianluca Zambrotta (Italy), Marc Wilmots (Belgium), Johan Mjällby (Sweden), Kaya Sut (Turkey), Lillian Thuram (France), Peter Gabriel (Czech Republic), Jiri Nemec (Czech Republic), Marek Janekulovski (Czech Republic), Michael Reiziger (Netherlands), Bert Konterman (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 Babbel (Germany), Miran Pavlin (Slovenia), Djordje Novak (Slovenia), Amir Karic (Slovenia), Agustin Aranzabal (Spain), Ivan Helguera (Spain), Slavisa Jokanovic (Yugoslavia), Vladimir Jugovic (Yugoslavia), Ljubinko Drulovic (Yugoslavia), Albert Nadj (Yugoslavia), Erik Mykland (Norway), Erik Bakke (Norway).



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.

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

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 on the next few days."

The DFB president does not think Germany's part in the victory 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 to 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."



German coach Erich Ribbeck speaking at press conference at Vaals yesterday. —AFP photo

from Ulf Kirsten (34) and Lothar Matthaeus (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 to stand down after Euro 2000.

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 et (Jens) Nowotny for example."

Ribbeck told a press conference at their base in Vaals, Germany on Sunday: "Apart from our 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, impervious 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 the 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.

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.

TURKEY AND SWEDEN

This dreadful match had absolutely nothing to command 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 tears 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 being.

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 innings.

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

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

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.

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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 Costinha'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 was another in 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.

DINO ZOFF (ITALY)

Zoff defied his critics in the Italian media by steering the 'Scudetto Azzurro' 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 'Oranje' 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 Mjällby 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

Sport

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 L