

## Turkey v Portugal

From page 13

never had the soaring success of their colonial cousins in South America who have won a record four World Cup titles and come to be eliminated in the semi-finals of the 1966 World Cup when their star player Eusebio - the tournament's leading goalscorer - was the victim of brutal man-marking by Nobby Stiles - conduct that undoubtedly would have been clamped down on nowadays.

They also impressed in the 1984 European Championships going down 3-2 in the semi-finals to a Michel Platini-inspired France in what remains one of the classic matches in football history.

Portugal's under-20 world title wins in both 1989 and 1991, however, gave the impression a whole new batch of players would come through to the senior side and might just win at least one major trophy.

Players such as keeper Vitor Baia, defenders Fernando Couto and Secretario, midfielders Paulo Sousa, Rui Costa, Luis Figo and striker Joao Pinto will all be nearing or past 30 by the time the 2002 World Cup comes round and surely past their best.

A 3-2 fightback win over England, a 1-0 victory over Romania and then a rousing 3-0 thrashing of Germany, including a hat-trick from stand-in Sergio Conceicao, meant they jointly have the best attack and defence of the competition with Holland of seven goals scored and two conceded.

Luckily for coach Humberto Coelho, who made nine changes from the Romania game when they met Germany, only Porto right back Secretario is ruled out of the match.

Secretario, who has an injury to his right arm, will be replaced by Everton's Mozambique-born Abel Xavier.

In attacking midfield, Coelho has a multitude of options with superb stars like Luis Figo, Rui Costa plus Conceicao at his disposal.

Bad news for Turkey is that striker Hakan Sukur picked up an injury in training on Thursday, the team's general manager Can Cobanoglu said.

"Hakan Sukur is slightly injured," said Cobanoglu. "We hope he can play in the quarter-final with Portugal. But we do not know yet."

Sukur, who is leaving Galatasaray to join Inter Milan, scored both goals in the 2-0 victory over Belgium that helped Turkey reach the second phase of a major tournament for the first time.

It's been a while since Turkey were considered one of Europe's poorer footballing nations although they did lose all three group matches in Euro 96 in their major finals debut and were defeated in their first group B game against Italy.

A dull draw against Sweden had many thinking that they would be on their way home after their match against Belgium but Sukur's exploits rubbed the doubters.

## Tyson-Savarese bout today

GLASGOW, Scotland, June 23: The hype surrounding tomorrow's fight between former world champion Mike Tyson and fellow American Lou Savarese stepped up a gear yesterday as the two boxers faced off in the traditional pre-fight meeting reports Reuters.

Tyson said he was in excellent shape and promised to let his fists do the talking in the ring.

Sacked South Africa cricket captain Hansie Cronje during the cross-examination by King Commission in Cape Town yesterday.

## Sport

## Cross-examination ends

# Double-dealing Cronje



CAPE TOWN, June 23 (AP/AF/ Internet): A weary Hansie Cronje ended three days of cross-examination at the King Commission into corruption in tears on Friday, following a grueling session in which he said he wanted to use money he took in bribes to redress the damage he had done to cricket.

In his statement to the commission last week, Cronje admitted to accepting four bribes, worth about 140,000 dollars, from gamblers since 1996.

He was helped out of the room by a minder and by his brother Frans after being warned that he might be recalled to the inquiry. Also Friday, Cronje admitted he tried to cheat his own teammates when he enticed them into accepting money for a substandard performance.

Cronje said he told a gambler called Sanjay "Sanjay" Chawla that his teammates Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Mansoor wanted 25,000 dollars each to perform poorly in a one-day international against India at Nagpur on March 19. Cronje had offered them 15,000 dollars each to play badly.

State Prosecutor Shamiel Batohi grilled Cronje on why he had accepted 25,000 dollars per player and offered them only 15,000 each.

"I offered them 70,000 rands," said Cronje. "I converted the dollar at about 5 to one, but I told them I'd see if I could get more."

After a pause, during which he looked very tired, he added, "Maybe I was trying to cut something for myself."

Cronje was described earlier this week by his psychiatrist as being clinically depressed.

Next on the stand was Johannesburg gambler Marlon Aronstam, but he, too, started crying and the inquiry was briefly adjourned while he regained his composure.

Aronstam gave Cronje 50,000 rands (7,215 dollars) and a leather jacket after the captain manufactured a result in the rain-hit fifth Test against England at Centurion Park in January 2000.

Aronstam told the inquiry that he was "shocked" when within an hour of meeting Cronje for the first time the

## Tyson-Savarese bout today

GLASGOW, Scotland, June 23: The hype surrounding tomorrow's fight between former world champion Mike Tyson and fellow American Lou Savarese stepped up a gear yesterday as the two boxers faced off in the traditional pre-fight meeting reports Reuters.

Tyson said he was in excellent shape and promised to let his fists do the talking in the ring.

Sacked South Africa cricket captain Hansie Cronje during the cross-examination by King Commission in Cape Town yesterday.

## Tragic

BANGKOK, June 23: Slovak footballer Peter Dubuovsky, 28, a striker for Spain's Real Oviedo, died Friday after falling off a waterfall in the southern Thai resort of Koh Samui, doctors said, reports AFP.

Dubuovsky "died at 10:40 am (0340 GMT) local time Friday because of heavy losses of blood and severe brain injuries," Choomchoke Janwimaling, director of Ban Don Hospital in the southern town of Surat Thani, told AFP.

Dubuovsky fell from a waterfall Thursday on the southern island resort of Koh Samui, 644 kilometers (386 miles) from Bangkok, and was transported to the Surat Thani provincial hospital for treatment.



Cronje replied: "He could have been involved with Gupta but I didn't for any reason think he was doing business with Gupta at all."

He conceded later, "If he's the one who has introduced me then he can also do business with Gupta."

Cronje said it was not likely that he was the only international player to have been approached by bookmakers but said he did not know who else had been.

"If they could get to me, they could get to anyone," he said.

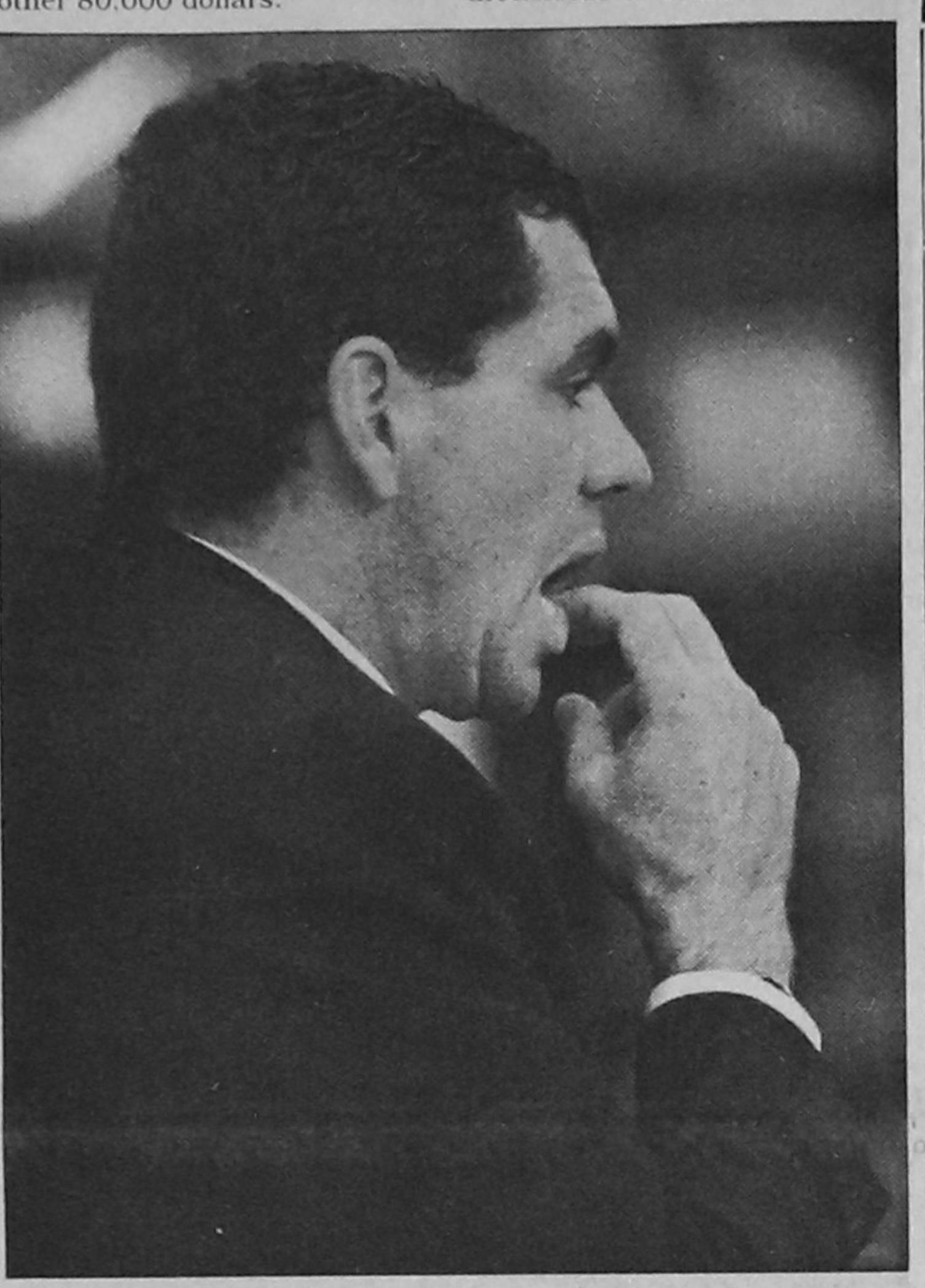
Cronje admitted for the first time that he had been offered 100,000 dollars by Sanjay to "throw" a match during a one-day series in India in March.

The offer had been made when he was given money in a mobile telephone box as a deposit when the pair met for the first time in Durban before the tour.

Cronje was sacked in April after admitting to accepting money for forecasting.

He has insisted, however, that he never threw a game and always played cricket to the best of his ability.

On the transcript of a taped telephone recording, Cronje asked Sanjay for "25" for each player and "140" as a total amount for himself. He admitted the amounts referred to thousands of dollars.



Choomchoke added that Dubuovsky's chances of survival had been constrained by the delay in getting him from the waterfall to the hospital.

Dubuovsky had been on holiday with his girlfriend, brother and sister-in-law.

Participants of the Millennium Olympic Day Run yesterday morning.

—Star photo



## Italy v Romania

From page 13

goals in three games at Euro 96 and eight goals in five at France 98 - Italy have surprised many by scoring twice in each match at Euro 2000.

Totti and Del Piero, who are rivals for a place in Zoff's starting line-up alongside erratic centre-forward Filippo Inzaghi, have both found the target in their last matches.

Italy qualified for the last eight thanks to Totti and Fiore's goals against Belgium, enabling Zoff to give Del Piero his first start against Sweden - an act of faith repaid with the Juventus striker making one goal and scoring the other.

Their prowess has inevitably given Zoff a headache - and the Italian press a field day - over team selection for Saturday's match.

On the night, both men should make an appearance. Zoff will probably start with Totti and then replace him with Del Piero midway through the second half - as he did in both their opening matches.

Inzaghi hasn't scored once in open play at Euro 2000, having only converted a penalty that he dubiously earned against Turkey.

However, his poor form is uncharacteristic for one of the Serie A's top strikers of the last four years and he may yet spark against Romania.

In fact, Zoff will probably field the starting line-up used against Turkey, with Inzaghi and Totti supported by the creative skills of Fiore and the hard work of two other central midfielders - Demetrio Albertini and Antonio Conte.

Juventus pair Gianluca Pessotto and Gianluca Zambrotta will occupy the left and right flanks, moving up to supply crosses and falling back to help out a three-man defence with Fabio Cannavaro, Alessandro Nesta and captain Paolo Maldini.

Francesco Toldo stays between the posts.

By contrast, Romanian coach Emerich Jenei is facing all sorts of problems as he picks his team.

Three of his men who so heroically beat England 3-2 - and Aderl Ilie, Cosmin Contra and Chelsea's Dan Petrescu - are suspended.

Another, six-times

Romanian Footballer of the Year Gheorghe Popescu ripped a calf muscle in a collision with David Beckham and - barring divine intervention - will be unavailable.

And there are some who would even see the return from suspension of Romania's greatest player ever, 35-year-old playmaker Gheorghe Hagi, as a mixed blessing.

Hagi, with his world-class ball skills and vision, is capable of turning a match at any level with just one shot or a single defence-splitting pass.

However, his overwhelming presence also means that he is the focal point of the team and of its distribution of the ball. Short on mobility, he draws his teammates passes like an irresistible magnet and in so doing tends to slow down their attacking manoeuvre and make it more predictable.

Against England, that reference point was forcibly removed by disciplinary officials - and the team won their first ever match at a European championships.

Romania were faster on their feet and were able to attack Kevin Keegan's men from all sides, patiently moving the ball around up front or simply running straight at the England defence from deep positions.

Against Italy, Inter Milan's Adriano Mutu will start with Viorel Moldovan up front. Zoff's men would also be well-advised to keep an eye on midfielders Cristian Chivu and Dorinel Munteanu, who both scored against England.

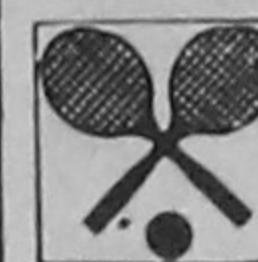
Saturday's quarter-final here should certainly see a lot of neat, elegant football - despite the risk of it becoming bogged down in the middle.

There will probably be few chances for either side to finish the match off - but in Del Piero and Totti, Italy have two natural born killers.

Participants of the Millennium Olympic Day Run yesterday morning.

—Star photo

## 'Mission cross-Channel'



LONDON, June 23 (AFP): Having proved herself in front of the Parisian fans who once were disdainful towards her French Open winner Mary Pierce has nothing to prove to anyone other than herself as she bids to keep surging her way to victory on the other side of the Channel at Wimbledon.

Tennis player Mary Pierce has nothing to prove to anyone other than herself as she bids to keep surging her way to victory on the other side of the Channel at Wimbledon.

Canadian-born Frenchwoman Pierce infuriated the Roland Garros fans for years with her eyelash-tweaking and hair re-arranging between points - there was also the little matter of a 1994 final defeat - as each year she flattered only to deceive on home ground.

That was before she settled into a long-term relationship with Major League Baseball star Roberto Alomar and re-embraced Catholicism.

Thus galvanised, she promptly became the first French winner of the Roland Garros singles crown since Francoise Durr in 1967 and having accomplished her life-long dream 25-year-old Pierce can now take a more relaxed view as she contemplates how best to transfer that form to Wimbledon.

On the night, both men should make an appearance. Zoff will probably start with Totti and Fiore's goals against Belgium, enabling Zoff to give Del Piero his first start against Sweden - an act of faith repaid with the Juventus striker making one goal and scoring the other.

Their prowess has inevitably given Zoff a headache - and the Italian press a field day - over team selection for Saturday's match.

Pierce is not by any means an instinctive serve-and-volley merchant and her best finish in five trips to Wimbledon remains a quarterfinal loss in 1996.

Anybody is a really tough match - bad bounces every time the ball hits the ground," she added warily prior to arriving in England, where on Wednesday she echoed recent criticisms of Wimbledon made in Paris by Andrei Medvedev.

Medvedev blasted the organisers for, as he saw it, treating the top stars better than the rest and Pierce weighed in with an attack of her own.

"Wimbledon is not very player-friendly. They don't want to pick you up at the airport," she sniped.

"It is the most prestigious tournament but not so enjoyable as the others."

That aside, Pierce, who won her first Grand Slam title at the 1995 Australian Open, hopes to take advantage of her superlative form and the confidence which accompanies it to give herself - and French tennis - another huge shot in the arm.

To date 'La Grande Nation' has only had one women's singles champion here - the legendary Suzanne Lenglen, who won the last of her six titles in 1925.

With Pierce, the French send a long-overdue addition to the record books.

She, meanwhile, is content for fate to bring it with what may.

"Everything is in God's hands. I no longer want to torture myself on court. Just offer up a prayer and things will be fine."

Glittering girl Anna Kournikova completed the day's draw-card disappointment as she went out 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 to American Chanda Rubin.

"There was not much time to react, the points on grass go by so fast," she added.

Van Roost said that in contrast to her previous win over the world Number two, she felt no nerves in this contest.

"It was such a fight in the wind," said Davenport.

"At 0-5 I started turning it around. In the third, I had a break point for 4-3 but she took her opportunities and closed it out."

"There was not much time to react, the points on grass go by so fast," she added.

Van Roost said that in contrast to her previous win over the world Number two, she felt no nerves in this contest.

"It's nice much better on grass than clay," said the Belgian.

"Lindsay has the same strokes as I do, she will stay on the baseline."

"But I knew she had played a long match yesterday and might be tired. I was confident and ready to win," she insisted.

Davenport was making plans to head straight to London for training at Wimbledon, which she has not visited since her trophy triumph a year ago.

In Friday's semifinals, Van Roost plays Kremer while Rubin faces Haldar-Decugis.

Davenport said she turned

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11





<tbl\_r