

Tonic for Trapattoni

MILAN, Oct 8: Giovanni Trapattoni's Italy go into Wednesday's World Cup Group Eight qualifier with Georgia basking in the fulsome praise that followed a 3-0 victory here Saturday, against a Romania team tipped to be their main rivals to win the pool, reports AFP.

The Italians destroyed Romania in a first-half blitz that saw Filippo Inzaghi, Marco Delvecchio and Francesco Totti score unanswered goals.

The "Azzurri" took it easy in the second period, perhaps aware of the impending match in Ancona with the Georgians but there was no disguising the positive feeling in the Italian camp.

But Trapattoni, who replaced Dino Zoff after Euro 2000, did not rule out changing the line-up against Georgia, hinting Alessandro Del Piero could make the starting XI on Wednesday.

Asked to explain his decision to leave Juventus star Del Piero out of the starting line-up against Romania Trapattoni said: "I saw I had to keep someone in reserve. I acted in such a way for what we are waiting for on Wednesday against Georgia."

Asked if he might change his line-up Trapattoni said: "We will see tomorrow and the day after tomorrow how the lads react."

Trapattoni was more forthcoming about his team's performance against Romania, saying: "I found really very little wrong with the team. A solid defence, a midfield that worked perfectly."

But clearly aware of the pitfalls of overconfidence the wily old coach added: "Now we must keep our feet on the ground because Wednesday we are expecting a hard match against a stubborn team."

Italian skipper Paolo Maldini was honoured before the match for winning his 113th cap, breaking Zoff's national record, followed by a minute's silence which was held in memory of Dynamo Bucharest player Catalin Haldan, who died during a Romanian club match on Thursday.

Maldini dedicated the match to Trapattoni — it was the former Juventus and Bayern Munich coach's first win at the helm of the "Azzurri" after Italy were lucky to escape with a 2-2 draw in Hungary in their opening qualifier.

"He is the man I have always dreamed of having as coach," said Maldini.

Inzaghi also displayed his faith in Trapattoni as he said: "We are a great team and we can go much further."

Francesco Coco, who made his debut against Romania, laid tribute to his promotion to his coach at AC Milan Alberto Zaccaroni and under-21 coach Marco Tardelli, who Saturday was announced as the new coach of Inter Milan.

"Tardelli and Zaccaroni are the men I must be most grateful too for getting to this stage. To make my debut at the San Siro was fantastic," said Coco.

Romania coach Ladislav Boloni conceded his team had been outclassed.

"The two goals in the first 20 minutes killed the match. Now we must try and get our revenge next March in the return match but our goal remains second place in the group and to finish behind such a team is no dishonour," said Boloni.

UAE 4-nation soccer champs

DUBAI, Oct 8: Kazim Ali struck three minutes from time as the United Arab Emirates defeated Kuwait 1-0 to win a four-nation soccer tournament on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The UAE finished top of the table with five points, followed by South Korea (4 points), Australia (3 points) and Kuwait (none).

In a tense, evenly balanced contest, the UAE rode their luck to clinch the victory late in the match.

A defence-splitting through pass from Subait Khater found Kazim Unbakt and the striker beat the goalkeeper with a neat right foot shot.

Kuwait, who lost 1-0 to Australia on Wednesday, had their chances with strikers Saleh Akaznu and Salama Hadi both hitting the crossbar.

UAE, beaten 6-1 by Saudi Arabia last week, picked up a winners' cheque for \$35,000 while South Korea received \$15,000 for finishing runners-up.

Earlier, the South Korean came back from two goals down to defeat Australia 4-1.

Australia looked on course for a victory that would have seen them clinch the tournament when Paul Agostino struck in the 36th and 39th minutes.

But South Korea hit back almost immediately as Sin Jae-won reduced the deficit three minutes from halftime, heading home a free kick from Lee Young-pyo.

Noh Jung-yoon equalised four minutes into the second period and the Seoul Ki-hyeon, put through by Lee Dong-gook, fired the Koreans ahead in the 65th minute.

South Korea completed an impressive lightbulb in injury time when Lee Dong-gook, who was tripped inside the box, scored from the penalty spot.

Wembley's Hamman blow



LONDON, Oct 8: England's 2002 World Cup campaign got off to the worst possible start on Saturday when they lost 1-0 to Group Nine opponents Germany in the last match ever to be played at Wembley Stadium, reports AFP.

A goal from Germany's Liverpool midfielder Dietmar Hamman after 13 minutes was enough to secure the vital three points for Rudi Voller's men.

Hamman's quickly-taken free-kick caught the England defence napping and the German's low drive was too powerful for goalkeeper David Seaman to save.

England's best chance to equalise fell to David Beckham during the second period but his fierce right foot screamer was pushed over the crossbar by German keeper Oliver Kahn.

The Germans had further opportunities late on to make the game safe but the superb Jens Nowotny and Sebastian Deisler missed excellent chances with just Seaman to beat.

England coach Kevin Keegan took a surprise gamble by naming Aston Villa defender Gareth Southgate in midfield for the injured Steven Gerrard of Liverpool.

It was the first time that Southgate has started the game in that role since his days with Crystal Palace more than five years ago.

Michael Owen and Cole started up front together for the first time as England looked for a winning send-off from the last match to be staged at the Twin Towers.

The Owen-Cole partnership received poor service early on with too many passes from the England midfield misdirected.

The Germans were more structured in their build-up — and after 13 minutes disaster struck for England when Hamman gave the visitors the lead.

Paul Scholes brought down Michael Ballack 30 metres from the England goal and goalkeeper Seaman was caught unaware by Hamman's free-kick.

The Arsenal goalkeeper was still organising the defensive wall in front of him when the Liverpool midfielder let fly with a low shot and Seaman could only parry the ball with his left-hand into the net.

Deisler then sent over a teasing right-wing cross and Martin Keown had to head away from Marco Bode behind him as he lined up a volley.

England took time to settle after the early setback but were handed a good opportunity to draw level moments later when

Marko Rehmer brought down Cole just outside the penalty area.

Beckham, usually lethal from set pieces, took the free-kick but his curling effort was comfortably dealt with by German keeper Kahn.

England failed to keep possession for any length of time but they did start to exert a bit more pressure as the half-time whistle approached.

England skipper Tony Adams produced England's best effort a minute before the interval when his stooping header produced a splendid diving save from Kahn.

Keegan switched from a 4-4-2 to a 3-5-2 formation in the second half, bringing on Kieron Dyer at wing-back in place of Gary Neville and switching Southgate to his more accus-

tipped over athletically by Kahn.

England at last started to build up some momentum with most of it being engineered by Beckham who was more involved in the action.

Handball by Carsten Ramelow on the edge of his own penalty box seemed to present Beckham with an ideal opportunity but his free-kick was blocked by the German wall.

Beckham then tried his luck from the other flank and his dipping, curling effort was only just too high as Kahn looked anxiously over his shoulder.

Then Beckham sprayed a delightful 45-yard pass into the path of Owen who would have been left with a clear run on goal had his close control been up to scratch.

But the Liverpool player,



Germany's Oliver Bierhoff (L) and Martin Keown of England leap to head the ball during their World Cup qualifier at the Wembley Stadium on October 7.

—AFP photo

who was not having one of his better games, allowed the ball to spin away from him and Nowotny was able to tidy up.

Despite relentless England attacks the Germans were able to soak up the pressure and looked increasingly dangerous on the counter-attack.

Nowotny and Deisler came close when presented with glit-tered chances in the last 10 minutes but both failed to test Seaman and with England chasing the game Voller's side held on to make it two wins out of two.

England travel to Finland on Wednesday for their second Group Nine game looking to get their first points of the campaign.

England received a ball 25 metres out and his powerful shot was

toed position at the heart of the defence.

But the Germans still looked the more likely side to score and Seaman made amends for his part in the opening goal by coming to England's rescue after 51 minutes.

Mehmet Scholl went charging down the left wing and turned Martin Keown inside out before firing a low shot towards the right hand corner of the net.

But Seaman got down brilliantly at full stretch to palm the ball away to safety.

Ballack was then booked for time-wasting before Beckham brought about the biggest roar of the afternoon from the England fans.

He received a ball 25 metres out and his powerful shot was

Chilavert cheers Paraguay



BOGOTA, Oct 8: Paraguay goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert scored from a free-kick as his team beat Colombia 2-0 away in a World Cup qualifier on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Chilavert, booed throughout for some provocative pre-match comments, curled the ball around the Colombian wall in the 90th minute to complete a comfortable win for Paraguay. Striker Roque Santa Cruz set them on the way with a fourth

South Korea.

The first goal came when Santa Cruz clipped the ball over advancing Colombia goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba after Jose Cardozo had headed a long upfield pass from Francisco Arce into his path. It was the first goal Cordoba had conceded in five internationals.

Paraguay dominated the first half and Santa Cruz had three good chances to double their lead. Colombia suffered a further blow when defender Ivan Ramiro Cordoba was sent off in the 27th minute for punching

Jose Cardozo in the face as the pair went for a ball.

Colombia striker Victor Bonilla was also booked for a blatant dive in the Paraguay penalty area.

Colombia controlled the second half, during which Chilavert was booked for time-wasting, but could not break down a typically well-organised Paraguay defence.

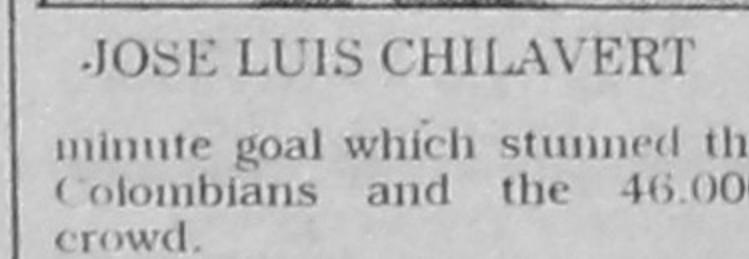
The had a penalty appeal ignored when Victor Aristizabal appeared to be tripped in the goalmouth scramble.

STANDINGS

BOGOTA, Oct 8 (Reuters): South American World Cup qualifying standings after Saturday's game (Played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

1. Argentina	8	6	1	1	18	7	19
2. Paraguay	9	5	2	2	13	8	17
3. Colombia	9	4	3	2	8	6	15
4. Uruguay	8	4	2	2	11	5	14
5. Brazil	8	4	2	2	14	9	14
6. Chile	8	3	1	4	11	10	10
7. Ecuador	8	3	1	4	9	13	10
8. Peru	8	2	2	4	6	7	8
9. Bolivia	8	1	2	5	4	14	5
10. Venezuela	8	1	0	7	5	20	3

Note: Top four qualify for the World Cup in 2002. Fifth team plays off against the winners of the Oceania region.



JOSE LUIS CHILAVERT

minute goal which stunned the Colombians and the 46,000 crowd.

Chilavert, who has scored more than 50 goals in his career, had predicted before the game that Paraguay would win. He also threatened to sue to Colombian football federation for using a photograph of him on match tickets and refused to talk to local journalists, claiming they had stoked up hostility against his team.

Paraguay leapt to second place in the South American qualifying group with 17 points from nine games, overtaking Colombia who are third with 15.

The top four in the 10-team group qualify for Japan and

Gymnastics WC in South Korea

SEOUL, Oct 8: South Korea will host the gymnastics World Cup in 2001, sports officials said Sunday, reports AFP.

The event will either be held in Pusan, as part of preliminary competition for the 2002 Asian Games, or in Seoul.



Dutch star Patrick Kluijver (R) and Charalambous of Cyprus take a tumble while in quest of the ball during their World Cup qualifier on October 7.

Venables bookies' choice

LONDON, Oct 8: Amid a myriad of other names from home and abroad British bookies have installed Terry Venables as their 4/1 favourite to succeed Kevin Keegan as England coach, reports AFP.

William Hill on Sunday put former incumbent Venables, who stepped down after Euro 96, ahead of Leicester boss Peter Taylor, who is at 6/1.

Next comes Aston Villa chief John Gregory at 7/1, with Middlesbrough boss Bryan Robson (8/1) and Peter Reid of Sunderland (10/1).

Should the FA elect to go down the untrodden route of appointing a foreigner, an idea which has gained some approval in the media since Keegan resigned after Saturday's World Cup qualifier defeat by Germany, Arsenal's Arsene Wenger could be worth a 12/1 shot.

Sacked Inter Milan coach Marcello Lippi is another non-home grown candidate at 14/1, while Charlton coach Alan Curshley, as English as they come, has the same odds.

Then comes Irishman David O'Leary of Leeds at 16/1, Manchester United's Scottish coach Alex Ferguson at 20/1 and Englishman Harry Redknapp of West Ham at 25/1.

Former England bosses Glenn Hoddle, Bobby Robson and Graham Taylor are rated 40/1, 50/1 and 100/1 respectively.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

PARIS, Oct 8 (AFP): Col-lated 2002 World Cup qual-ifier results on Saturday:

Group 1
Switzerland 5 (Zwyssig 26, Fournier 35, Turkylmaz 42, 45, 53) Faroe Islands 1 (Pei-ter 4)

Luxembourg 1 (Strasser 46) Slovenia 2 (Zahovic 35, Milno-vic 37)

Group 2
Andorra 1 (Ruiz 90-pen) Estonia 2 (Rein 55, Oper 64)

Portugal 1 (Conceicao 57) Rep of Ireland 1 (Holland 72)

Group 3
Northern Ireland 1 (Healy 38) Denmark 1 (Rommedahl 60)

Bulgaria 3 (Ivanov 40, 62, Todorov 89) Malta 0

Group 4
Moldova 0 Slovakia 1 (S. Nemet 79)

Sweden 1 (Henrik Larsson 69) Turkey 1 (Tayfur Havutcu 90-pen)

Friday
Macedonia 3 (Hristov 35, 45, Bekiri 74) Azerbaijan 0

Group 5
Wales 1 (Blake 60) Norway 1 (Helstad 80)

Armenia 2 (Petrosyan 17, 44) Ukraine 3 (Shevchenko 45, 59, Hustin 57)

Group 6
Latvia 0 Belgium 4 (Wil-monts 4, Peeters 9, Cavens 82, Verheyen 90)

San Marino 0 Scotland 2 (Elliott 70, Hutchison 72)

Group 7
Liechtenstein 0 Austria 1 (Floerg 28)

Spain 2 (Gerard 22, Hierro 53) Israel 0

Group 8
Lithuania 0 Georgia 4 (Kets-baia 19, 34, Kinkladze 46, Arveladze 84)

Group 9
England 0 Germany 1 (Hamman 14)

Chicago, Kansas in MLS Cup final

NEW YORK, Oct 8: The Kansas City Wizards will meet the Chicago Fire in the Major League Soccer Cup 2000 at RFK Stadium in Washington on October 15, reports AFP.

The Wizards advanced to the championship game after striker Miklos Molnar scored the game-winning goal in Game Three of their semi-final series against the Los Angeles Galaxy at Arrowhead Stadium Friday.

Molnar then netted the golden goal in the series over-time session to send the Wizards to their first MLS Cup appearance.

The Fire advanced to the cup game with a 3-2 victory in their third semi-final game against the New York-New Jersey MetroStars in Chicago Friday.

Chicago's Ante Razov broke the 2-2 tie in the 88th minute and the Fire had a second trip to the championship game.

Kevin leaves Eng in limbo



LONDON, Oct 8 (Reuters/Internet): England face an uncertain future after the double blow of losing their opening World Cup qualifier to Germany and their coach Kevin Keegan.

Keegan, who quit after Saturday's Group Nine 1-0 defeat at Wembley, was slaughtered by the British press on Sunday for the timing of his decision.

Dubbed a "coward" and a "deserter", his resignation just four days before another qualifier away to Finland is certain to test the Football Association's skills in crisis management.

F.A. technical director Howard Wilkinson will be caretaker manager for Wednesday's match.

England need to win, or at least avoid another defeat, if they are to set a course for the 2002 finals in Japan and South Korea.

However, the bigger question remains the future head of the national team, with much speculation pointing to a historic first appointment of a foreign coach.

Bookies have named former England manager Terry Venables, who took the national side to the semifinals of Euro 96, as the most likely successor.

Venables indicated in a newspaper interview in late June that he would be willing to return, but warned: "I would want to know I had the backing of everyone at the FA."

Other home candidates in-

clude Peter Taylor, the former England Under-21 coach who has guided Leicester City to top slot in the league for the first time since 1963, and John Gregory of last season's F.A. Cup finalists Aston Villa.

However, with foreign coaches being increasingly popular in the premier league, the FA are now willing to break with tradition and look at non-English candidates for the national job.



TIME TO LOOK ABROAD?

The most successful manager of the past decade has been Manchester United's Scottish chief Alex Ferguson, while rivals Arsenal did the League and Cup double in 1998 under Frenchman Arsene Wenger and Chelsea won a League Cup, a European Cup Winners' Cup and an F.A. Cup under recently-departed Italian Gianluca Vialli.

Quite an ordinary night



PARIS, Oct 8: England coach Kevin Keegan became the first casualty of the World Cup qual-ifying campaign when he re-signed after his side lost to Germany on an afternoon which saw the other British sides in action both scrape draws, reports AFP.

Keegan announced his resignation and said he was not staying on for the match against Finland in four days' time after Germany notched up their second World Cup qual-ifying campaign victory to spoil the Wembley Stadium farewell party with a 1-0 win in Group Nine.

"Kevin Keegan gave it his best shot," was the sad Keegan's parting shot.

Elsewhere, Wales and Northern Ireland both got home draws and Sweden were held 1-1 at home by a late penalty while in Lisbon the Republic of Ireland came away with a valuable 1-1 draw against Portugal.

Liverpool's Dieter Hamman fired in a long range free kick on 14 minutes and England never found a way back past the Danish goal, but a dubious equaliser from Dennis Rommedahl on the hour spoiled the party.

Voller, supposedly an in-

term coach, now has three victories from three in charge and should keep his job as Christoph Daum, due to take over the job June 1 2001, saw the charge of fraud added to the drug accusations he suffered last week.

The Republic of Ireland had second half substitute Matt Holland to thank for their impressive 1-1 draw away to Portugal later on Saturday.

The Ipswich Town player fired a stunning 72nd minute equaliser for the Republic from a Robbie Keane pass leaving Ireland to live on their nerves in a frenzied finish.

The home side had taken the lead through Sergio Conceicao but failed in their attempts to grab a late winner as the Irish put up stout defence.

Northern Ireland did marginally better than England, but after leading Denmark 1-0 at the interval the Danes equalised on the hour. Both sides now have four points from two matches in Group Three.

David Healy opened the scoring with his fifth goal in only six games, beating his former Manchester United teammate Peter Schmeichel in Rudi Voller's dominant formation which maintained their 100 per cent record.

Voller, supposedly an in-

Another Frenchman, Gerard Houllier, is in charge at Liverpool, while Ireland's David O'Leary has worked wonders at Leeds United.

F.A. chief executive Tony Crozier said: "It does not matter if the man is English, Scottish, Irish or Welsh — French, Belgian or Dutch or anything else, as long as he is the right man."

Extending the search beyond England's borders was backed by Britain's former sports minister Tony Banks, who told BBC radio on Sunday: "I think it's time to look around the world."

"This ridiculous idea that only an English person can actually act as a coach for the England team is nonsense."

"Look at the top five Premier managers last season. They were all non-English."

Bookies tip Wenger as the most likely foreign candidate, though it is hard to see Arsenal releasing their man after the Gunners' promising start to the season in England and Europe.

Marcello Lippi, sacked by Inter Milan last week, but who made Italian, European and world champions out of Juventus, has been quoted at 14-1 to take over from Keegan.

Whoever takes on the job faces an uphill task after England's poor showing at Euro 2000 and a disastrous start to their World Cup qualifying.

But F.A. spokesman David Davies remains defiantly optimistic about the team's chances. He told BBC television on Sunday: "We've only lost one game, there are 21 points to go."

STANDINGS

PARIS, Oct 8 (AFP): World Cup qualifying group tables after Saturday's fixtures (Played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

GROUP ONE

Slovenia	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
Yugoslavia	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Russia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Faroe Islands	2	0	1	1	3	7	1
Luxembourg	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Estonia	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
Netherlands	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Portugal	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Cyprus	2	1	0	1	3	6	3
Rep of Ireland	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Andorra	3	0	0	3	3	6	0