

Pekerman may replace Bielsa

AFP, Buenos Aires

Former youth team coach Jose Pekerman is leading the chase to replace Marcelo Bielsa as Argentina coach following the team's shock elimination from the World Cup at the first hurdle.

Julio Grondona, the president of the Argentine Football Federation (AFA), said Wednesday he would offer Pekerman the job - if he says yes.

Of contrasting

FROM PAGE 16 substitutions and line-up changes - placing well-rewarded faith in relatively untested midfielder Landon Donovan and starting second-choice goalkeeper Brad Friedel.

"He lets the team play. He's not a dictator," said Friedel, along with Donovan one of the main reasons for the best American showing at a World Cup since 1930.

German captain Oliver Kahn, who was Voeller's team mate in the 1994 World Cup squad, said his boss was unflappable.

"You always had the impression that nothing could affect him. He's still very much like that," Kahn said.

The usually calm Voeller has only lost his cool once in the current campaign, hitting back at critics of Germany's sluggish performance against Paraguay.

Arena, amiable but notorious in U.S. soccer circles for undiplomatic bombshell comments, disagreed with criticism of Voeller, whom he called "a very good coach and a terrific guy" who had helped some of his American players in Germany.

Arena's team have helped awaken an indifferent United States to soccer, but he expressed empathy for Voeller and his heavily favoured side for having to answer to a soccer-mad homeland.

"If we don't win this game we'll do fine. We'll be home and everyone will be happy with us," he said.

"I'm not sure how the German team will do if they lose to the U.S. They may not be heading right to Frankfurt after the game."

Controversial

FROM PAGE 16

Referring to Francesco Totti's red card, the referee stated:

"Totti's diving was quite obvious and FIFA's records proved that. Totti fell down before the Korean played even hit him. In that situation I had to caution him, and it was his second bookable offence and so I had to send him off."

Meanwhile, The four referees involved in the most controversial incidents of the 2002 World Cup have been cut from the roster.

FIFA's referee's committee decided on Thursday not to retain Moreno, Angel Sanchez, punched in the Portugal-Korean Group match, Vitor Melo Pereira who missed a hand ball in the USA-Mexico showdown and Kim Young-Joo, criticised after Brazil beat Turkey.

Altogether 16 of the original 32 named for the tournament have been released.

So severe has been the attacks levelled against Moreno, that newspapers in Quito have leapt to his defence.

"Byron Moreno did his job," said the editorial in the morning daily El Universo. "Firm and calm-headed (...), Moreno showed perfect knowledge of the game's 17 rules and prevented any outbreak of violence on the pitch."

Another newspaper, El Comercio, said: "Moreno ran all over the place and had a good view of the whole match. The quality of Moreno's refereeing fully came to light when he sent off Francesco Totti."

Despite the fact that Moreno was excluded from the list of the referees, he expressed his confidence that he will be involved in the next World Cup to be held in Germany.



A colourful rally was brought out in Chittagong yesterday ahead of today's draw of The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz Round 5.

Sit back and enjoy

AFP, Seoul

From publicans in England to poets in Senegal and from clueless Americans to, it seems, every living soul in South Korea, anticipation is growing for the quarterfinals of the World Cup finals.

The first two of the four games are on Friday with a classic Brazil-England at Shizuoka, Japan followed by an unexpected Germany-United States in Ulsan, South Korea.

The following day South Korea will be up for the game against Spain in Gwangju, while Senegal oppose Turkey in the quarterfinal no one predicted in Osaka.

The other 24 teams have now gone home to lick their wounds, while the eight teams left tend to their injured and fine-tune tactics for the matches which are eagerly followed back home.

In England normal service will be all but suspended as the English take on Brazil for the first time in the

World Cup finals since the legendary 1-0 Brazilian win in Mexico in 1970.

Bookies are anticipating record bets. Prime Minister Tony Blair will take time off during the EU summit to watch and union leaders are urging firms not to crack down on the tens of thousands of workers expected to go in late or not at all.

Broadcasters say the game could produce some of the highest ever viewing figures.

As the match kicks off at 7.30 am (0630 GMT) British time, road and rail companies are predicting a quiet rush hour, unlike power chiefs who recorded a surge equivalent to almost a million kettles being switched on during England's second round tie against Denmark.

The interest will be no less over in Rio de Janeiro where the match time will fall in the middle of the night and a Brazilian win could see the unlikely sight of a breakfast-time samba carnival.

First-time quarterfinalists

Senegal are having their praises sung, or rather recited, back home.

The association of Senegalese writers have organised a poetry competition with the theme of honouring the "Lions Teranga" as the team are nicknamed.

Poems must be submitted by July 31 with the winners announced in August, but such has been the enthusiasm generated around only the second-ever African team to make the quarterfinals that the papers are already full of gushing prose.

But it is perhaps in South Korea that football-fervour is at its highest, aroused by the march of their side into the quarter-finals with three wins and a draw including a sensational come-from-behind triumph over Italy.

Prior to this tournament, South Korea had played in five World Cup finals and failed to win a single match.



Perugia under fire

AFP, Daejeon

Ahn Jung-hwan has vowed to find a "better" team and championship after being sacked by Italian side Perugia within hours of scoring the winning goal for South Korea against Italy at the World Cup.

The sacking has also enraged Asian and South Korean soccer chiefs with Asian Football Association general secretary Peter Velappan calling Thursday for a boycott of Perugia.

South Korea's national team coach Guus Hiddink said the Perugia president had been "childish" for blaming Ahn for Italy's defeat in the World Cup second round - one of the great upsets in the tournament's history.

Incensed Asian football chief Velappan proposed an Asian boycott of the Italian club in support of Ahn.

Velappan told the Singapore newspaper Today that he had asked Asia's World Cup finalists China, South Korea and Japan to avoid Perugia.

"I have warned soccer officials in China, Korea and Japan not to send players to Perugia, because all they are interested in is making money from merchandising these Asian players," Velappan said. "Anyway, who the hell cares about Perugia?"

Velappan accused Gaucci of poor sportsmanship.

"What he has said is in very bad taste. Italy should be a good loser. They are being bad sports."

"They were beaten by the better team and they should accept it. Why take it out on Ahn?"

FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper said the international governing body would not get involved as it was between the player and the club.

Camara revelation

INTERNET, undated

Senegal hero Henri Camara has revealed that he almost turned down the chance to play in the World Cup after being jeered by his own fans at the African Nations earlier this year.

"I was feeling ill at ease with my game," said the Sedan forward, who scored both goals in the 2-1 second round win over Sweden.

Camara struggled to find his feet at the African Nations in Mali where Senegal finished runners-up to Cameroon, and the reaction of the fans left him contemplating his international future.

"I really hesitated for a while over the call up, but that's normal when you are full of doubt," he said.

"I had scored a lot of goals at Sedan but it all went wrong at the African Nations Cup and instead of hearing people chanting 'Henri! Henri!' I was being whistled at."

"But now my success at the World Cup has confirmed my potential - and shown that I should listen to my mum more," grinned the 25-year-old. "She said to me 'look son, it isn't Sunday every day you know', just to let me know that these opportunities do not come along every day."

Camara's excellent form is one of the main reasons why Senegal find themselves in the last eight of the World Cup, with a quarterfinal against Turkey coming up on Saturday.

He grabbed a superb equaliser against Sweden, controlling the ball on his chest and planting an unstoppable right-footed shot into the corner past Magnus Hedman, and then created history by scoring the first golden goal of the 2002 World Cup to ensure that Senegal become the first African side to qualify for the quarterfinals since Cameroon in 1990.

CUP CORNER

FROM PAGE 13 collected and stuck into special albums. They have been on sale since May.

RONALDO'S PREMIER AMBITION

INTERNET, London

Brazilian superstar Ronaldo says he dreams of a move to England, saying he is attracted by the flair of the Premiership, Sky Sports reported.

The Inter Milan forward indicated: "I still have inside me the itch to play in England which won't go away."

"They have a wonderful championship and though everybody talks about the Spanish and Italian leagues people who love football must agree the English league has a flair of its own."

WHO IS BIELSA?

REUTERS, Shizuoka

Brazil defender Roberto Carlos hit back with sarcasm when told that the Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa had predicted they would lose to England in their much-awaited World Cup quarter-final on Friday.

"Who is Bielsa?" he asked on Thursday, referring to Argentina's shock first-round elimination from England's group. "I think he's going to be watching the game on the television, isn't he?"

Other Brazilian players preferred to tread more carefully. Central defender Roque Junior said: "I have nothing to say. Absolutely nothing. I'm thinking only about the game tomorrow so that we can leave here with a place in the semi-finals."

Rivaldo added: "There's no need to give any type of reply, because he is not here, they are not part of the World Cup any more."

Klose call!

AP, Seogwipo

Miroslav Klose likes the company he's suddenly found himself in: Ronaldo, Rivaldo.

Having scored five goals in five games, the German striker is competing with the two Brazilian stars for the lead in the race for the Golden Boot, the award to the top scorer at the World Cup.

But while Rivaldo and Ronaldo could have been expected to be there at this stage of the tournament, few people had heard of Klose before the World Cup.

Klose and Ronaldo lead the scorers' list with five goals apiece, trailed by Rivaldo with four. The Brazilians have scored in each of their team's four games; Klose got three in Germany's 8-0 opener against Saudi Arabia and scored one goal in each of the remaining first-round games.

Ronaldo and Klose are just one goal short of Croatian Davor Suker's 1998 tournament-leading total.

"I feel great in this company," Klose said Wednesday, two days before Germany's quarterfinal

showdown with the United States in Ulsan.

"For me, the important thing is that Germany stays in the tournament. But I'm eyeing the Golden Boot, as well."

"I don't want to compare myself to Ronaldo and Rivaldo, but I am not so bad, either. No one thought that I'd score five goals and that Germany would get this far, one match away from the semifinals. Maybe I hit one or two against the United States and Brazil gets knocked out," Klose said.

The Germans believe they've got an easier job than Brazil, which plays England in what is the spotlight quarterfinals game. If the Germans win the World Cup, they will match Brazil's record of four titles.

"I am going to be at full throttle against the Americans, hoping to score one or two and lead us to victory," Klose said. "If I manage to score, I am going to dedicate the goal to Fritz Walter."

Walter was captain of Germany's 1954 that won the nation's first World Cup title and became one of

the country's greatest soccer stars. He died Monday at age 81.

Throughout his career, Walter stayed faithful to Kaiserslautern, the same club Klose joined from the amateur ranks in 1998.

"To me and my family, he was very close. He celebrated every goal I scored, sent me cards and wine," said Klose, the son of Polish immigrants.

Klose said he was not worried about being shut out in the second round against Paraguay, or about defences paying closer attention to him now that he's made a name as a marksman.

"I had my chances. A forward who can always come up with something new is the most dangerous, and I am going to get more chances," he said.

Something new for Klose would be to score with his foot. All of his goals have been headers.

With 13 goals in 16 matches for Germany, Klose already is being compared to Gerd Mueller, who tops the career World Cup list with 14 goals. Mueller had 68 goals in 62 games for Germany.

Klose still has a lot of work to do to catch Mueller, but he is only 24 and could play in at least two more World Cups - the next in Germany in 2006.

"If the Germans field Klose and (Carsten) Jancker, they are a handful in front of the goal," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said. "Jancker is three or four inches taller than Klose and is a dangerous guy in front of the goal. Klose has been outstanding. He's not as big, but his timing and technique in front of the goal has been excellent, and that is a concern to us."

"Our defenders are going to have to a better job of dealing with those forwards and in positioning themselves the right way to play for those crosses."

Revisiting World

FROM PAGE 16

German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn for only the second time in the tournament.

The teams have met several

times in friendlies recently, Germany winning the last one 4-2 in March and the U.S. chalking up morale-boosting 2-0 and 3-0 victories in 1999.

PROBABLE TEAMS

Germany (Formation 3-5-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Oliver Kahn; 21-Christoph Metzelder, 5-Carsten Ramelow, 2-Thomas Linke; 22-Torsten Frings, 19-Bernd Schneider, 8-Dietmar Hamann, 13-Michael Ballack, 6-Christian Ziege; 11-Miroslav Klose, 7-Oliver Neuville. United States (Formation 3-5-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Brad Friedel; 23-Eddie Pope, 4-Pablo Mastroeni, 3-Gregg Berhalter; 22-Tony Sanneh, 21-Landon Donovan, 10-Claudio Reyna, 5-John O'Brien, 2-Frank Hejduk; 11-Clint Mathis, 20-Brian McBride. Referee: Hugh Dallas (Scotland)

Judgement Day

FROM PAGE 13

Ronaldo believes Brazil must not change their tactics and stick to their natural attacking game against England.

The tournament's joint top-scorer said that it would be a mistake to adapt the way they play to counter the main English threat from David Beckham or Michael Owen.

"We shouldn't worry ourselves too much about how the English are going to play against us," he said.

"At the end of the day it's up to us to go out there and win the match on the field."

"We must go on to the attack and keep them under pressure and not get too concerned about the players that are on the other side and what they are going to do to us," said the Inter Milan forward.

"England have made a lot of progress in the last few years. They have a talented midfield with good ball-winners and they are capable of quickly moving from one end of the field to the other."

"I think it looks like being a very open game and as for me what matters is that the team scores not that I finish as top scorer."

Owen has been declared fit for the crunch match with Brazil, Eriksson said Thursday. Owen resumed full training after recovering from a groin strain.

"I think he's okay. He had some small problems but he worked very hard, took a lot of massage, treatments. He seemed to be very good day," Eriksson said after overseeing

England's final training session at the Shizuoka Stadium here Thursday.

Fears over the Liverpool had been running high after he pulled out of a scheduled press conference on Tuesday. Eriksson denied there was any chance of Owen being picked if he was not completely fit. "Absolutely not - he's fully fit," Eriksson said.

Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes, another injury concern for Eriksson, is also available after struggling off a sore foot.

Scholes would have also been a huge loss having been one of England's most influential players during their impressive World Cup campaign.

Aston Villa striker Darius Vassell gave England another boost by recovering from a back problem and Owen Hargreaves is also available having overcome a leg injury sustained in the 1-0 first round win over Argentina.

The Bayern Munich midfielder will probably have to make do with a place on the substitutes' bench with

Eriksson expected to name an unchanged line-up against tournament favourites.

Rio Ferdinand will be hoping to send the millions of people who live in the city bearing his name crying into their coffee by living up to his reputation as the tournament's best defender.

He, and his central defensive partner Sol Campbell, will have to tame rampant Brazilians strikers But while the history books and their current scoring potency point to a Brazil victory, England have just as much chance of emerging the winners.

Belgium did enough to expose the holes that can quickly appear in the Brazil defence - and England are quicker and sharper going forward than the Belgians.

Brazil, though, play to the old adage "you score one, we'll score two," and England will not be able to let their guard drop for a moment against the best attack in the World Cup.

PROBABLE TEAMS

England: (Formation 4-4-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-David Seaman; 2-Danny Mills, 5-Rio Ferdinand, 6-Sol Campbell, 3-Ashley Cole; 7-David Beckham, 8-Paul Scholes, 21-Nicky Butt, 4-Trevor Sinclair; 11-Emile Heskey, 10-Michael Owen. Brazil: (Formation 3-5-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Marcos; 3-Lucio, 5-Edmilson, 4-Roque Junior, 2-Cafu; 8-Gilberto Silva, 9-Juninho, 11-Ronaldinho, 6-Roberto Carlos; 9-Ronaldo, 10-Rivaldo. Referee: Felipe Ramos Rizo (Mexico)

Bumper Round, Draw in Dhaka

Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

- Information: The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2002 is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer being held in Japan & South Korea from May 31 to June 30. B. There will be SIX rounds of competition. C. Each round will have a separate draw with attractive prizes from the house of RANGS TOSHIBA as per announcement. D. Participants of all the SIX rounds will automatically qualify for the Bumper Draw, which will have even bigger prizes. E. For each round, a set of questions including a photographic Quiz will be published in The Daily Star. F. Names and addresses of all prize winners will be published in The Daily Star. G. Winners will have to collect their prizes from office after satisfactory authentication of their identity. H. Any taxes or levies, as per law, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the prize winners.

Table with 4 columns: Prize, Item, Model, Winner. Lists prizes like Toshiba TV, Refrigerator, Washing machine, etc.

Table with 4 columns: Round & Draw, Starts, Answers must reach by noon, Lucky Draw for prizes. Lists dates from April to June.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with clues and a solution key at the bottom.