

FIFA accept new code

Football

AFP, Montreal

WADA president Dick Pound said Tuesday that football's world governing body FIFA is finally set to accept the World Anti-Doping Agency's new anti-doping code.

"FIFA's medical commission will announce on Tuesday that it will accept the anti-doping code," Pound said at a press conference here.

FIFA have been opposed to the code mainly on the issue of the length of suspensions for any players who test positive.

However Pound affirmed that FIFA, who are under pressure to accept WADA's code ahead of next year's Olympic Games in Athens, would ratify the code once it had clarified the exact details of any suspensions.

"We've consulted with experts throughout the world and the overall opinion is that the anti-doping code is flexible enough to allow a two-year suspension, but also to be able to examine each case on an individual basis without the threat of an automatic ban," added Pound.

European football's governing body has already stepped up its fight against doping by increasing the number of tests by 30 percent this season, and UEFA will intensify the number of tests for next year's Euro 2004 finals in Portugal.

In the 2002-03 season, 396 players chosen from 99 games played under UEFA auspices underwent tests. All the results bar one were negative.

Recent positive tests for the banned steroid nandrolone have shown that doping is an issue in the sport - Inter Milan's Sierra Leone forward Mohammed Kallon is facing a ban after a second B sample tested positive for nandrolone last week.

In Copenhagen meanwhile the coach of the Danish national team, Morten Olsen, told AFP Tuesday he was in favour of the introduction of random test on players.

"Sportsmen should compete on a level playing field and should not be using artificial means to improve their performances," Olsen, who was clarifying remarks made earlier in the day which he said were misinterpreted by a television channel.

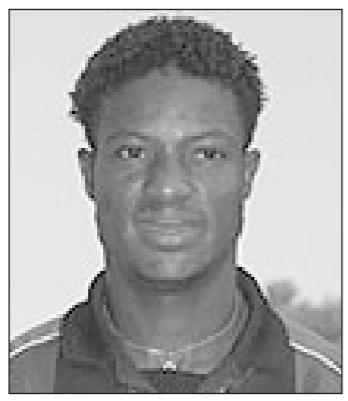
Olsen, who was credited with saying there was little need to combat

doping in football, added: "I'm in favour of random tests being carried out before matches but on both teams involved, not just one."

"All I wanted to say was that we shouldn't get carried away and start pulling players out of their beds at four o'clock in the morning, otherwise we start spending more time on testing players than actually preparing matches."

Danish football federation (DBU) president Allan Hansen said doping was not an issue in Denmark.

"Danish football is exempt from doping," said Hansen, who said that UEFA's efforts to increase tests at the Euro 2004 had his "complete support".



MOHAMMED KALLON

He added: "All of our international players must undergo anti-doping tests and the DBU has even asked the Danish anti-doping agency to test all our international squad from now up until the European FIFA accept new code."

AFP, Montreal

WADA president Dick Pound said Tuesday that football's world governing body FIFA is finally set to accept the World Anti-Doping Agency's new anti-doping code.

"FIFA's medical commission will announce on Tuesday that it will accept the anti-doping code," Pound said at a press conference here.

FIFA have been opposed to the code mainly on the issue of the length of suspensions for any players who test positive.

However Pound affirmed that FIFA, who are under pressure to accept WADA's code ahead of next year's Olympic Games in Athens, would ratify the code once it had clarified the exact details of any suspensions.

"We've consulted with experts

throughout the world and the overall opinion is that the anti-doping code is flexible enough to allow a two-year suspension, but also to be able to examine each case on an individual basis without the threat of an automatic ban," added Pound.

European football's governing body has already stepped up its fight against doping by increasing the number of tests by 30 percent this season, and UEFA will intensify the number of tests for next year's Euro 2004 finals in Portugal.

In the 2002-03 season, 396 players chosen from 99 games played under UEFA auspices underwent tests. All the results bar one were negative.

Recent positive tests for the banned steroid nandrolone have shown that doping is an issue in the sport - Inter Milan's Sierra Leone forward Mohammed Kallon is facing a ban after a second B sample tested positive for nandrolone last week.

In Copenhagen meanwhile the coach of the Danish national team, Morten Olsen, told AFP Tuesday he was in favour of the introduction of random test on players.

"Sportsmen should compete on a level playing field and should not be using artificial means to improve their performances," Olsen, who was clarifying remarks made earlier in the day which he said were misinterpreted by a television channel.

Olsen, who was credited with saying there was little need to combat

doping in football, added: "I'm in favour of random tests being carried out before matches but on both teams involved, not just one."

AFP, Montreal

WADA president Dick Pound said Tuesday that football's world governing body FIFA is finally set to accept the World Anti-Doping Agency's new anti-doping code.

"FIFA's medical commission will announce on Tuesday that it will accept the anti-doping code," Pound said at a press conference here.

FIFA have been opposed to the code mainly on the issue of the length of suspensions for any players who test positive.

However Pound affirmed that FIFA, who are under pressure to accept WADA's code ahead of next year's Olympic Games in Athens, would ratify the code once it had clarified the exact details of any suspensions.

"We've consulted with experts

PHOTO: AP
Carlos Gamarra of Paraguay gives a thumbs up while leaving the field with his teammates after defeating Chile in Santiago on November 18.

Paraguay thank Paredes



REUTERS, Santiago

Midfielder Carlos Paredes hit the only goal to guide Paraguay to their third consecutive victory in World Cup qualifying, a 1-0 win over Chile on Tuesday.

In the day's other fixture, underdogs Venezuela snatched a dramatic 2-1 home win over Bolivia thanks to last-gasp goals by Jose Manuel Rey and Juan Arango at Maracaibo.

Paredes, who plays for Italian Serie A side Reggina, scored the 31st minute to put Paraguay top of the South American zone standings, at least until Brazil and Argentina play on Wednesday.

He added: "All of our international players must undergo anti-doping tests and the DBU has even asked the Danish anti-doping agency to test all our international squad from now up until the European

Paraguay, attempting to reach their third successive World Cup finals with a squad based largely on the players who qualified in 1998 and 2002, have nine points from four games.

They are two points ahead of Brazil and Argentina, who play their fourth games on Wednesday, at home to Uruguay and away to Colombia respectively. Chile, who missed out in 2002, have four points from four games and are seventh in the standings.

Paraguay's goal came from one of their typical aerial attacks with right-back Francisco Arce almost inevitably the instigator.

Arce floated one of his trademark crosses into the penalty area, Jose Cardozo headed down at the far post and Paredes scored with a first-time shot from the edge of the box which took a deflection off Chile's Rafael Olarra.

Paraguay packed their defence for the second half and, despite ample possession, hosts Chile lacked the inspiration to find a way through.

They won a number of free kicks in good positions but most were struck straight into the wall by David Pizarro.

Striker Mauricio Pinilla had Chile's best chances. In the first minute, he burst into the Paraguay area but his shot was blocked by goalkeeper Justo Villar.

Pinilla also shaved the crossbar with a header in the first half and the post after he again outjumped the defence in the 61st minute.

The game was marred by an ugly flare-up in the second half but lenient Uruguayan referee Gustavo Mendez did not show a yellow card.

Venezuela were 1-0 down in a scrappy game when defender Rey equalised from a free-kick in the 90th minute. Then, two minutes into injury time, midfielder Arango clinched

victory with a low, left-foot shot that rebounded off the post into the net.

The late goals brought the 30,000 home crowd to its feet in the western oil city of Maracaibo.

Local fans attributed the victory to the Virgin of Chiquinquirá, Maracaibo's Catholic patroness whose religious feast day was observed on Tuesday.

Venezuela, the only South American nation never to have played in the World Cup finals, also recorded a 1-0 win in last Saturday's qualifying match in Colombia.

Jubilant coach Richard Paez told reporters: "We won (on Tuesday) because we played with conviction ... and we tried not to lose our heads. The frightened Venezuelan side is a thing of the past."

Venezuela President Hugo Chavez also celebrated the victory. He said in a speech that he had recently told Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva "we'll beat Brazil one day".

The result was a shock for Bolivia, still reeling from their 3-0 defeat by Argentina three days ago.

Joaquin Botero put Bolivia ahead with an opportunist goal 15 minutes into the second half.

Botero scooped the ball into the corner of the net after a header from Venezuela defender Alejandro Cichero rebounded off another player to the feet of the Bolivia striker.

In the 84th minute, Ecuadorian referee Mauricio Reinoso disallowed a goal by Venezuela substitute Alexander Rondon for offside.

Venezuela now have two wins from four qualifying games, keeping alive the World Cup dream for the South American nation where baseball is still preferred to soccer as the national sport.

STANDINGS

(Played-won-drawn-lost-goals-for-goals-against-points)

	4	3	0	1	8	6	9
Paraguay	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
Argentina	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Brazil	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Uruguay	3	2	0	1	8	5	6
Venezuela	4	2	0	2	3	6	6
Peru	3	1	1	1	6	4	4
Chile	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Ecuador	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Bolivia	4	1	0	3	5	10	3
Colombia	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

Let off for Smith

Football

AFP, Leeds

Leeds United striker Alan Smith appears to have escaped prosecution for throwing a plastic bottle at fans during a match against Manchester United.

The Crown Prosecution Service has advised West Yorkshire Police not to charge the footballer with any criminal offence from the match on October 28. Smith lobbed a plastic bottle into

the Elland Road crowd after Leeds' 3-2 defeat to Manchester in the third round of the League Cup.

"Area lawyers decided there was insufficient evidence to prove a realistic prospect of securing a conviction in respect of any potential Public Order Act or assault charges," Neil Franklin, chief Crown Prosecutor for CPS West Yorkshire, said.

Smith was arrested and questioned by police after the incident which led to England dropping him for their friendly international against Denmark last Saturday.

Boca means more to Tevez!

Football

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Striker Carlos Tevez is taking legal action against a decision forcing him to play for Argentina in the World Youth Championship rather than for Boca Juniors in the Intercontinental Cupfinal.

South American champions Boca are due to meet Champions League winners AC Milan in Tokyo on December 14 to decide the unofficial world club champions.

But the exciting Tevez, 19, the inspiration when Boca won the Libertadores Cup for the third time in four years earlier this season, has also been included in the Argentina squad for the World Youth Championship in the United Arab Emirates.

Desailly's heart in France

Football

AFP, Paris

Chelsea captain Marcel Desailly insisted Tuesday that nothing would persuade him to stay on at Stamford Bridge after his contract finished in 2005.

France's most capped player told France Football magazine: "I'm staying on at Chelsea until 2005 and then I'm going home. That's certain."

"There's nothing that would tempt me to stay on in England or move to Italy!"

Desailly joined the English Premiership side in 1998 but despite enjoying life in the English capital he says his heart lies elsewhere.

"I've got good friends in London as well as Milan but the bulk of them are in France."

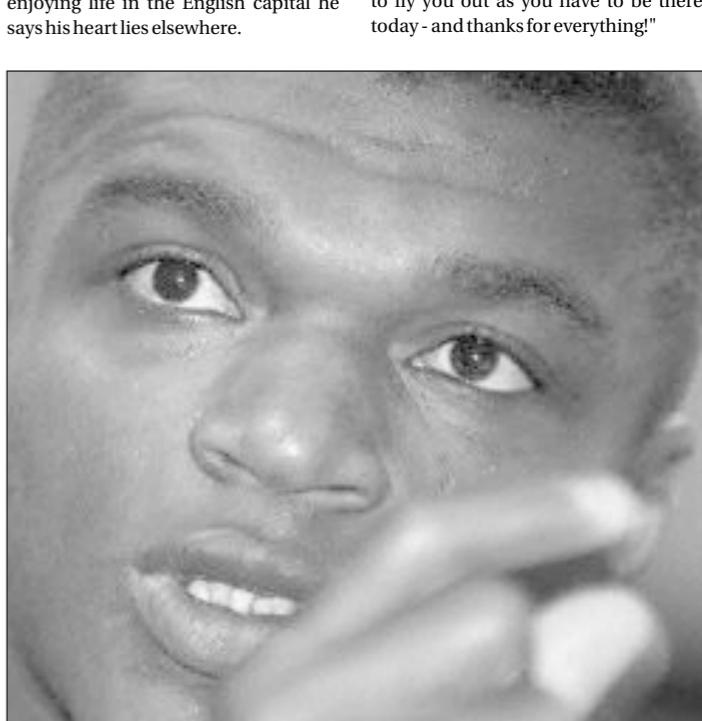
"You know it's good to welcome people who just pass by without an invitation, who come to have a drink without having to phone first."

"They come by because they know the door's always open."

"This lack of conviviality begins to get to you."

Desailly went on to recall how he heard about his first overseas transfer from Marseille to AC Milan ten years ago this week from a brief conversation with the French club's then president, Bernard Tapie.

"He told me - 'I've sold you to (Silvio) Berlusconi - there's a plane standing by to fly you out as you have to be there today - and thanks for everything!'



MARCEL DESAILLY

Swedes get on Gaucci's nerves

Football

AFP, Rome

Eccentric Perugia president Luciano Gaucci has slammed two female footballers who snubbed his offer to make them the first women to play in Italy's Serie A.

Gucci says he is determined to have a woman in his team for next year and has spent months trying to lure Swedes Victoria Svensson and Hanna Ljungberg to Italy to play alongside the men.

But the pair, both strikers for Sweden's national women's team, spurned his advances saying they could not compete with the likes of Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Nesta.

"We've wasted three months and time is precious," he said on Tuesday. "If they didn't want to come to Perugia they should have

told me straight away."

"Anyhow, I won't give up. A woman will play in my team and

there are many out there who would happy to come."

Last week Svensson, a Swedish

international striker, said it was unrealistic to think a woman could play in a professional league against men.

"I don't think that women can compete against men on a regular basis," said.

"Quite simply we would not be able to get the better of players such as Mald