

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," said 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
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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 in the 31st minute to put Paraguay top of the South American zone standings, at least until Brazil and Argentina play on Wednesday.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

South American Zone 4th Round qualifying results Tuesday for the 2006 World Cup:

At Maracaibo
Venezuela 2 (Rey 90, Juan Arango 92)
Bolivia 1 (Botero 56)
At Santiago
Chile 0 Paraguay 1 (Paredes 31)

Wednesday
At Quito
Ecuador v Peru
At Curitiba
Brazil v Uruguay
At Barranquilla
Colombia v Argentina

5th Round (March 30-31)
At Montevideo
Uruguay v Venezuela
At Asuncion
Paraguay v Brazil
At La Paz
Bolivia v Chile
At Buenos Aires
Argentina v Ecuador
At Lima
Peru v Colombia

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 Chiquinquira, 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 opportunistic 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, Ecuadorean 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.

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 Cup final.

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.

Under Argentina Football Association (AFA) rules, the national team automatically gets priority. Boca have protested against the decision but a club spokesman said Tevez had gone to court on his own initiative.

"Boca did not make any complaint, Tevez did it on his own," the spokesman told reporters. "But, in any case, Boca support and approve everything the player is saying and doing."

Tevez is expected to be out of action with a knee injury for another two weeks but was asked to travel with the national team in any case. The World Youth Championship starts on November 27 and the final is due to be played on December 19.

The player was missing from the official Argentina team photo session on Monday and the squad left for the UAE on Tuesday without him, the AFA said.

Desailly's heart in France

 Football

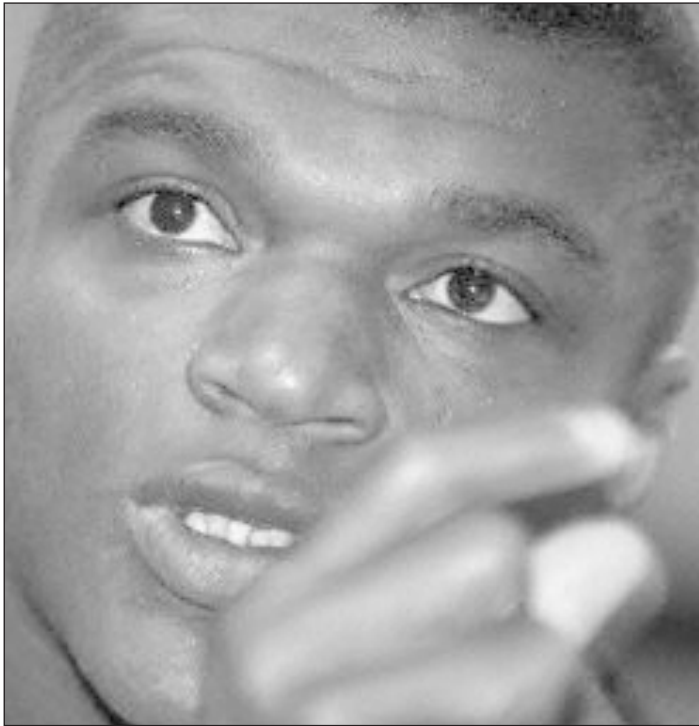
AFP, Paris

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.



MARCEL DESAILLY

FIFA rankings World champs remain atop

AFP, Paris

World champions Brazil, despite being held to a draw by Peru in the latest round of World Cup qualifiers, still top the latest FIFA World Rankings, with France, Spain and Argentina trailing in their wake.

Defeats in Euro 2004 play-offs and friendly internationals see Holland down to sixth, England to 8th, Germany to 9th and Italy to 11th.

As a result, Mexico, who have not played an international this month, move up three places to 5th.

Saudi Arabia move up four places to 26th while Scotland improve by eight to 50th to return to the top 50 for the first time in almost two years thanks to their 1-0 victory over the Netherlands.

An impressive win over Turkey also leads to a meteoric rise up the rankings for Latvia, up 13 to 56th.

Top 30 Rankings	pts
1. Brazil	852
2. France	826
3. Spain	785
4. Argentina	750
5. Mexico	742
6. Holland	740
7. Turkey	739
8. England	738
9. Germany	736
10. Czech Republic	735
11. Italy	733
12. USA	732
13. Denmark	714
14. Cameroon	712
15. Ireland	706
16. Belgium	696
17. Sweden	681
18. Portugal	680
19. Costa Rica	679
20. Croatia	662
Uruguay	662

Denilson injured

AFP, Madrid

Brazilian international Denilson has been ruled out of action for three weeks with a calf injury, his Spanish first division club Real Betis said Tuesday.

The 26-year-old World Cup winner felt a twinge in training and a subsequent scan revealed a slight tear in his right calf, according to the club's medical staff.

Denilson once held the tag of being the world's most expensive player when he was transferred from Brazilian giants Flamengo to Real Betis for 27 million pounds (42.4 million dollars) in 1998.



FREDDY ADU

 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.

Gaucci 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



VICTORIA SVENSSON



HANNA LJUNGBERG

Swedes get on Gaucci's nerves

Morris gets bail in rape charge

AFP, Leeds

Leeds United midfielder Jody Morris was bailed by magistrates Wednesday after being charged with raping a 20-year-old woman.

The 24-year-old former Chelsea player appeared at Leeds Magistrates Court alongside Kristofer Dickie, 26.

Dickie was named by media as the son of a Detective Chief Inspector in the London Metropolitan Police's Flying Squad.

They are both charged with raping a woman in Leeds on October 6.

Both men spoke only to confirm their personal details during a 35-minute hearing. They will next appear at Leeds Crown Court on December 17.

Jermaine Pennant, 20, who is on loan at Leeds from fellow English Premiership club Arsenal, was also arrested Tuesday and questioned in connection with the incident before being released on police bail.