

Eyes on

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India's Australian coach, Greg Chappell, is also concentrating on putting the building blocks in place for the future after the team won just nine of their 23 one-dayers last year.

Chappell has been given an early opportunity to experiment due to Sachin Tendulkar's absence with an elbow injury, while former captain Sourav Ganguly is serving a four-match ban and is unavailable for the Sri Lanka game and Sunday's clash against West Indies.

Ganguly had been banned for six matches for his team's slow over-rate against Pakistan but it was reduced by two games on Thursday on appeal.

"If we can put the building blocks in place here to build some success over the next couple of years then we put ourselves in a better position come 2007," Chappell told reporters.

"But we also have to be a little bit careful that we don't start planning too much for the World Cup as we still have still got to deal with the present and have success."

Tournament underdogs West Indies, who face India on Sunday, are without Brian Lara and several other established players due to contract disputes.

"This is a squad that could unearth some players for the future and that is the way we are looking at it," coach Bennett Kings said.

SQUADS

INDIA: Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, VVS Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina, Venugopal Rao, Jai P Yadav, Mahendra Dhoni, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Irfan Pathan, Zaheer Khan, Lakshmi-pathy Balaji, Ashish Nehra.

SRI LANKA: Marvan Atapattu (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Upul Tharanga, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Russel Arnold, Dilhara Lokuhettige, Upul Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Farveez Maharoo, Muttiah Muralitharan, Dilhara Fernando, Lasith Malinga.

WEST INDIES: Shivnarine Chanderpaul (captain), Ryan Ramdass, Xavier Marshall, Sylvester Joseph, Runako Morton, Narsingh Deonarine, Denesh Ramdin, Omari Banks, Tino Best, Daren Powell, Jermaine Lawson, Ricardo Powell, Kerry Jeremy, Dwayne Smith, Deighton Butler.

Buchanan turns

FROM PAGE 12
Buchanan, who will be in Manchester for the third Ashes Test next month, would also like to meet Clive Woodward, England's 2003 Rugby World Cup-winning coach. Woodward, another innovative manager, has switched sports to join the staff of second division soccer club Southampton.

No pain

FROM PAGE 12
But he was disappointed with the English youngsters.

"None of them has advanced since I last saw them," he told the Times. "It breaks my heart, but they are not putting in the work."

Part of that is the fault of assuming they will be an overnight success.

"Wrist spinners mature late," he said. "Sadly, in England if you are not playing at the top level at 16 and have not made it by 19, then you are on the scrapheap. Where would that have left Warney?"

"England has plenty of promising wrist spinners and at 14 or 15 they are as good as they are in Australia. Where do they go?"

He says he gets frustrated by players wanting to do too much too soon.

"They all want to learn a wrongun or a slider rather than working on their leg break, but Warne only gets wickets with his slider because his leg break is so good," he said.

He blamed the quality of club cricket and the unwillingness of the counties to give time to players who are bound to be hit for a few runs.

Muktijoddha

FROM PAGE 12
goalmouth melee in his second attempt.

With time running out fast, Austrian coach Kottan brought out-of-form national strikers Kanchan and Moni in from the bench to intensify the pressure. The move paid off in the 73rd minute when Arambagh stopper Ramjan handled the ball while trying to stop a cross by Kanchan inside the danger zone.

Paul kept his cool and put the ball into the net from the 12-year mark for his seventh goal in the league, to become joint top scorer along with Manju and Alfaz of Mohammedan and Brothers' Victor Edwards.

Ten minutes later, Paul reached down the left flank with a through from Kanchan and cut the ball back to the latter who exquisitely fired a left-footer into the far corner to make it 2-0. It was Kanchan's fourth goal in the championship.

Yellow cards: Harry (Muktijoddha) and Patrick (Arambagh)

TEAMS

MUKTIJODDHA: Titumeer, Hassan Al Mamun, Riad, Harry, Titu, Saiful, Pappu (Moni), Arman, Belal (Biddiyut), Paul and Amin Rana (Kanchan).

ARAMBAGH: Shakil, Ramjan, Ghansah, Akram, Juku, Imrul, Faisal (Monu), Russel, Ritu, Patrick and Morshed.

Referee: Ramkrishna Ghosh.



PHOTO: INTERNET

Club delegates from across Europe watch the draw ceremony of the UEFA Champions League qualifying round in the Swiss town of Nyon on Friday.

THIRD ROUND DRAW

No Merseyside derby



AFP, Nyon

Everton avoided a clash with Merseyside rivals Liverpool in Friday's Champions League third qualifying round draw.

Everton were drawn against Spanish side Villareal while Cup holders Liverpool drew CSKA Sofia or Dinamo Tirana of Albania.

"They'll be two good games, but two tough games," said Everton chairman Bill Kenwright.

"As we were unseeded there weren't many games that we would say we fancied but we've got to go in and accept it as an opportunity to get into the group stages."

Liverpool take a 3-1 lead over Lithuanian champions Kaunas into the second leg of the second qualifying round next week at Anfield while CSKA should also complete their second round tie having won 2-0 in Tirana in the first leg.

Liverpool's dramatic win over AC Milan in Istanbul in May forced UEFA to allow the Reds to defend their title despite failing to finish in the English Premiership's top four.

They were also seeded but as they had no country protection they could have faced unseeded Everton.

Liverpool chief executive Rick Parry said he was relieved to have avoided Everton.

"Clearly when we were not given country protection conspiracy theorists thought it was going to happen. Neither side would have relished it," he said.

"We've still got a job to do against Kaunas and we'll start thinking about the third round after Tuesday,"

he said.

"We will gather information and we are taking each game as it comes, we are professional - we are used to it. We treat everyone with respect but not fear."

Manchester United were drawn against Hungarian side Debrecen or Croatia's Hajduk Split. Debrecen are favoured to visit Old Trafford having won the first leg of their second round tie 3-0.

United secretary Ken Ramsden said: "It could be either club. We don't take anything for granted but it's a real step into the unknown - there's so much uncertainty."

"Debrecen have told us if they got a big team they would move the game to Budapest."

"It would be a big stage and a big pitch -- but we will play where we are sent."

"We really wanted Shelbourne but that was unlikely."

Scottish champions Rangers may have a trip to Cyprus to face Anorthosis who defend a 3-1 lead against Trabzonspor in Turkey next week.

"I think the most important thing is that we are away from home first, which was an aspiration we had for today's draw," Rangers chief executive Martin Bain said.

He would not say whom he preferred to play.

"I'm sure Alex McLeish, our manager, knows plenty about the teams in the draw. We will do all the necessary preparation and see where it takes us," he said.

Celtic, humiliated 5-0 by Artmedia Bratislava in Slovakia in the second round, face either Partizan Belgrade or Moldavan side FC Sheriff if they get out of that corner.

Partizan won their first leg 1-0 and have a testing trip to Moldavia.

The ties will be played over two legs on August 9/10 and 23/24, with the 16 winners joining the 16 automatic qualifiers for the group stage, starting in September.

D QUALIFYING ROU

Basle 1893 (SUI) v Werder Bremen (GER)
Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR) v Inter Milan (ITA)
Shelbourne (IRL) v Steaua Bucharest (ROM) v Rosenborg (NOR)
Malmö (SWE) v Maccabi Haifa (ISR) v Dynamo Kiev (UKR) or FC Thun (SUI)
Everton (ENG) v Villarreal (ESP)
Liverpool (ENG, holders) or Kaunas (LTU) v CSKA Sofia (BUL) or Dinamo Tirana (ALB)
Sporting Lisbon (POR) v Udinese (ITA)
Valerenga (NOR) or FC Haka (FIN) v Club Brugge (BEL)
Rapid Vienna (AUT) or F91 Dudelange (LUX) v Rabotnicki (MKD) or Lokomotiv Moscow (RUS)
Anderlecht (BEL) or Neftchi (AZE) v Slavia Prague (CZE)
Brøndby (DEN) or Dynamo Tbilisi (GEO) v Ajax (NED)
Real Betis Seville (ESP) v Monaco (FRA)
Wisła Kraków (POL) v Panathinaikos (GRE)
1st leg August 9/10, 2nd leg August 23/24
Winners go into the group stages

Brazilian legend Jaja no more

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian football legend Jair Rosa Pinto who was known as "Master Jaja" has died at the age of 84 at his home here after suffering from a lung related disease, local press reported on Thursday.

Jaja, who gave advice to players like Pele and Didi, was known for his small feet (size 4/37) but it failed to hinder his talent as he was the player who invented the dead ball free-kick and step-over.

During his final years with Santos, Jaja spent time coaching a certain youngster by the name of Pele who at 19 was already a world champion with Brazil.

Jair Rosa Pinto never experienced World Cup fame like Pele, he played 41 matches and scored 21 goals for the national team.

Jaja was a member of the Brazilian World Cup team that played in the "final of all finals" at the Maracana stadium in 1950 in which they lost 2-1 against Uruguay.

He couldn't understand how they had lost after leading 1-0 and he often asked God for an explanation.

Born in 1921 in Barra Mansa, near Rio, Jaja started his career in Madureira before playing for a number of big Brazilian clubs, Flamengo, Vasco de Gama, Santos, Ponte Preta and Palmeiras with which he experienced his greatest moments on the pitch.

CBF rejects Robinho's move

REUTERS, Madrid

Santos striker Robinho's move to Real Madrid has been rejected by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF).

"We are informing you that it is impossible for us to send the International Transfer Certificate for Santos player Robinho," CBF general secretary Marco Antonio Teixeira wrote in a fax to the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF).

"Santos will not accept the transfer without full payment of the buy-out clause in the contract which is legally binding under Brazilian law, and which is fixed at 50 million dollars."

Last week, nine-time European champions Real offered to pay Santos 30 million dollars, which equated to 60 per cent of the buy-out clause, in order to buy their share of Robinho's rights.

The 21-year-old Brazilian international valued the 40 per cent to which he was entitled.

"It's what we were expecting," Real's head of media and communications Antonio Garcia Ferreras said from Thailand, where the team are on tour.

"But I'm convinced that the deal will go through and that Robinho will definitely be included in the squad when we go to pre-season training in Austria."

Santos have turned down Real's approaches for the youngster, who has a contract until 2008, insisting that the Spanish side pay the buy-out clause in full.

Baros too pricey for Schalke

AFP, Gelsenkirchen

Bundesliga runners-up Schalke 04 admit they are unlikely to sign Czech international striker Milan Baros from Liverpool claiming the seven million pound (10 million euro) asking price is too high.

Schalke entered the race for Baros's signature on Thursday but have balked at Liverpool's valuation of the topscorer from the Euro 2004 finals.

"It is 95 per cent certain that a deal is over," general manager Rudi Assauer told Bild daily.

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez is prepared to let the 24-year-old Baros go after signing Peter Crouch from Southampton but manager Rafael Benitez wants a sizeable transfer fee for the marksman.

Premiership side Aston Villa have already had a five-million-pound (7.2 million euros) offer turned down and are considering whether to up their bid.

School kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER

Bagbari Government Primary School and Sabuj Biddyaniketon moved into the quarterfinals of the school kabaddi tournament yesterday.

Bagbari became Group C champions beating Dhour Government Primary School 48-39 and Sabuj Biddyaniketon outplayed HM Ershad Primary School 64-37 to become Group D champions to qualify for the quarterfinals.

In the day's another match, Manda Government Primary School beat Kafrul Government Primary School 65-36.

Real stars meet Thai PM



Football

AFP, Bangkok

Real Madrid football stars led by England captain David Beckham met Friday with Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra ahead of their friendly with the Thai under-23 side on the final leg of a world tour.

Five players from the Spanish powerhouse, dressed in blue and white track suits, presented the premier with a signed Real Madrid jersey, as their club president Florentino Perez sat for talks with Thaksin.

Beckham and teammates

Roberto Carlos, Michael Owen, Raul Gonzalez and Jose Maria Gutierrez were warmly greeted by a beaming Thai leader and a host of ebullient staff at Government House.

"I'm a fan of Spice Girls," Thaksin quipped to Beckham, whose wife Victoria was Posh Spice in the 1990s pop group.

The premier, an avowed football fan who last year made a failed bid for English side Liverpool, is due to attend Friday's match with his cabinet, local reports said.

The team arrived in the kingdom Thursday from Japan and have promised a goal fest in their match with the Thai squad as a means of

helping local survivors from December's deadly tsunami.

Match sponsors have pledged 200,000 baht (4,800 dollars) per goal scored at the Rajamangala Stadium to survivors of the December 26 Indian Ocean disaster that claimed nearly 5,400 lives in Thailand.

Real were winding up the Asian leg of their tour that has raised questions about their fading marketing magic in the region, with Beckham widely mocked for accusing Japanese player Kazuyuki Toda of spitting in his face during a 3-0 thrashing Monday by minnows Tokyo Verdy.



PHOTO: AFP

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez (C) and superstar Raul Gonzalez present a signed team jersey to Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra (R) in Bangkok on Friday.

Bayern thrash Tokyo



Football

AFP, Tokyo

German champions Bayern Munich overwhelmed J-League club FC Tokyo 4-0 on Thursday to get off to a winning start in their two-game friendly series in Japan.

Dutch international Roy Makaay set the visitors on their way in the 19th minute after a pass from Iranian newcomer Ali Karimi.

Brazilian defender Lucio added a second before half-time before Jose Paolo Guerrero beat two defenders to make it 3-0 in the 73rd minute.

Hasan Salihamidzic rounded off the scoring just a minute later.

Bayern coach Felix Magath was satisfied with the performance

which came after defeats in Japan for fellow European aristocrats Manchester United and Real Madrid.

"We created many scoring chances and we converted all of them. We scored two goals in each half. I'm glad we won in our first game," said Magath.

Bayern dominated from start to finish in a pre-season friendly that had the air of a practice match. Lucio, Ismael Valerian and Makaay all came close before the Dutchman's opener.

Lucio's goal was nodded in from an Owen Hargreaves corner and the third, from Guerrero, came after Michael Ballack had a headed effort ruled offside.

Salihamidzic's goal was set up by a long ball from Jens Jeremies,

leaving him with an easy finish.

"It was a good game for us. We were tired after the long trip but I was able to hit so many shots. It was good preparation for the league which will kick off in one week," said Makaay.

"I felt the difference of the level between Europe and Japan from the first half," he added.

Ballack said: "Of course I'm satisfied with the result. Some of our players were tired, but we did what we have to do when we are in bad physical condition."

The visitors, whose German international goalkeeper Oliver Kahn was sidelined due to a back problem, will take on 1999 Asian club champions Jubilo Iwata on Saturday.

Woodgate not giving up



Football

AFP, Madrid

Injury-plagued defender Jonathan Woodgate believes he is ready to kick his first ball as a Real Madrid player and put behind him the nightmare start to his Spanish career.

The 25-year-old hasn't played for Real since his 13-million-pound move from Newcastle in April 2004 because of a thigh injury.

But he insists he is on course to take part in Real's pre-season trip to Austria next week.

"The truth is that I'm dying to play

again," said the England international.

"I feel good. I'm working every day in double sessions and am delighted with the work I've been able to do."

"It's hard knowing my teammates have gone on tour and I'm left here working with the physios, but it's going well and I'm going to come back again. I'm doing what I enjoy, training."

"I have been out for a year and I'm not going to say it's been easy, but I've got no option but to work hard to recover, which is what I'm doing."

Woodgate also insisted that he is happy with his life in Spain despite

rumours linking him with a move back to England.

"Why would I want to leave if I haven't played for a year?," Woodgate told the official Real Madrid website.

"I want to demonstrate what I'm worth and start playing football again for Real Madrid. It would be a mistake for me to leave for England and let a chance like this escape."

"During my career I've not won any titles, and I want to here," added the former Leeds and Newcastle player.

"That's why I came to Madrid. We need a title, as we haven't won anything in the last two years, so I hope to win something soon."

Crespo on target



Football

REUTERS, Washington

English Premier League champions Chelsea rallied from a goal down to overcome DC United 2-1 in a friendly on Thursday, registering a second consecutive victory in the middle leg of a three-match US tour.

Displaying little urgency in the opening exchanges, the west London side fell behind to the Major League Soccer champions in the 31st minute, when defender Bobby Boswell rose unmarked to head home a Christian Gomez corner.

The goal acted as a wake-up call for Chelsea, who were back on level terms just four minutes later after Irish winger Damian Duff had picked up a pass from new signing Shaun Wright-Phillips and driven an unstoppable shot past home keeper Nick Rimando.

Chelsea continued to pile pressure on the DC United defence and Argentine striker Hernan Crespo added a second goal nine minutes into the second half, tapping in a pinpoint pass from Dutch winger Arjen Robben.

Despite the victory, Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho was

unhappy with his team's display before praising their spirit.

"The team was really bad in the first half and I am not happy with some players," Mourinho said.

"When they (DC United) scored, you could see the reaction. Why? Because they don't want to lose, so that's good."

The home side introduced Freddy Adu in the second half but the teenage prospect was unable to make an impact on the game as Chelsea dominated possession with their slick passing.

However, the 16-year-old was upbeat about the performance of his side.

"Everyone though we were going to get run off the field," he said.

"In my opinion, we played the best team in the world and we proved we can play with them."

The English side opened their tour with a 1-0 victory over AC Milan in Massachusetts last weekend and conclude the trip with another match against the Italians in New York on Sunday.

Chelsea kick off the defence of their domestic title with an away match against promoted Wigan Athletic at the JJB Stadium on August 14.

Roman's Med yacht summit

AFP, Lyon

Chelsea edged closer to signing Ghana midfielder Michael Essien when Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas said Friday he would meet the English champions' owner Roman Abramovich next week.

"Mr Aulas has agreed to meet Roman Abramovich at the beginning of next week in the south of France," a club statement said.

It was thought the meeting might take place on the Russian oil billionaire's yacht at Monte Carlo.

Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon met Lyon general manager Marino Faccioli on Thursday to make another improved bid which was turned down.

Chelsea's last disclosed bid was for 32 million euros (22 million pounds) but Aulas said Wednesday he wanted 45 million euros (32 million pounds) plus a player, thought to be Portugal midfielder Tiago.

Lyon coach Gerard Houllier said he was unsure whether to play Essien in the season-opening match against newly-promoted Le Mans on Sunday.

Essien had already refused to play in the Champions Trophy match against Cup winners Auxerre on Wednesday.