

Enamul takes BD A closer to win

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh require a further 78 runs to win after another brilliant spell of bowling from Enamul Haque in the third day of the first four-day match against Zimbabwe A at the Mutare Sports Club ground yesterday.

The second-string side ended the day on 34 for one after they dismissed the hosts for 388 in the second innings.

Test cap Stuart Matsikenyeri struck a patient 127 while Musamisi missed his well-deserved ton, falling at 97.

Left-arm spinner Enamul took four for 78, while fellow left-armers Sakib al-Hassan and seamer Tapash Baisya took two wickets apiece.

The wily spinner from Sylhet took 5 for 34, and now has a match-haul of 9 wickets for 112.

Zimbabwe second-string set a target of 112 runs a little more than a day to spare and Bangladesh played out the final ten overs losing a single wicket.

BRAC Bank Cup ISD, Sonargaon on right track

SPORTS REPORTER

International School of Dhaka (ISD) coasted past Interspersed by 3-1 in the BRAC Bank five-a-side football tournament at the ISD indoor facilities yesterday.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel also won 3-1 against Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC).

Tournament sponsors BRAC Bank drew 2-2 with mobile phone operators AKTEL.

Miracle on mind

FROM PAGE 24

and Japan we haven't scored, but we have created some good chances. I'm sure that we will beat Australia," added the 31-year-old who plays for Rangers in Scotland.

Croatia coach Zlatko Kranjcar predicted the 1998 semifinalists, who narrowly lost to Brazil 1-0 in their opening match, could still qualify for the next phase.

Croatia "were out of luck" against Japan, he said. "We still have strength left in us and our morale is high."

Japan also also game, said Zico, who played in three Brazilian World Cup campaigns, none of which ended in ultimate triumph.

"We are still breathing. We are alive. We'll see what we can do in the next four days."

Bolton midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata, picked as the man of the match in the Croatia game, said he would follow any game plan set down by Zico.



Did U Know?

Four countries - China, Slovenia, Ecuador and Senegal - made their debut in the 2002 World Cup finals. Although China, Slovenia and Ecuador failed to reach the second round, Senegal turned the form book upside down by reaching the quarterfinals on a run that included a shock 1-0 upset of holders France in the opening match.

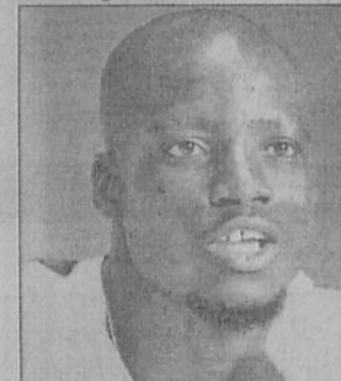


STAR Sports

England v Sri Lanka

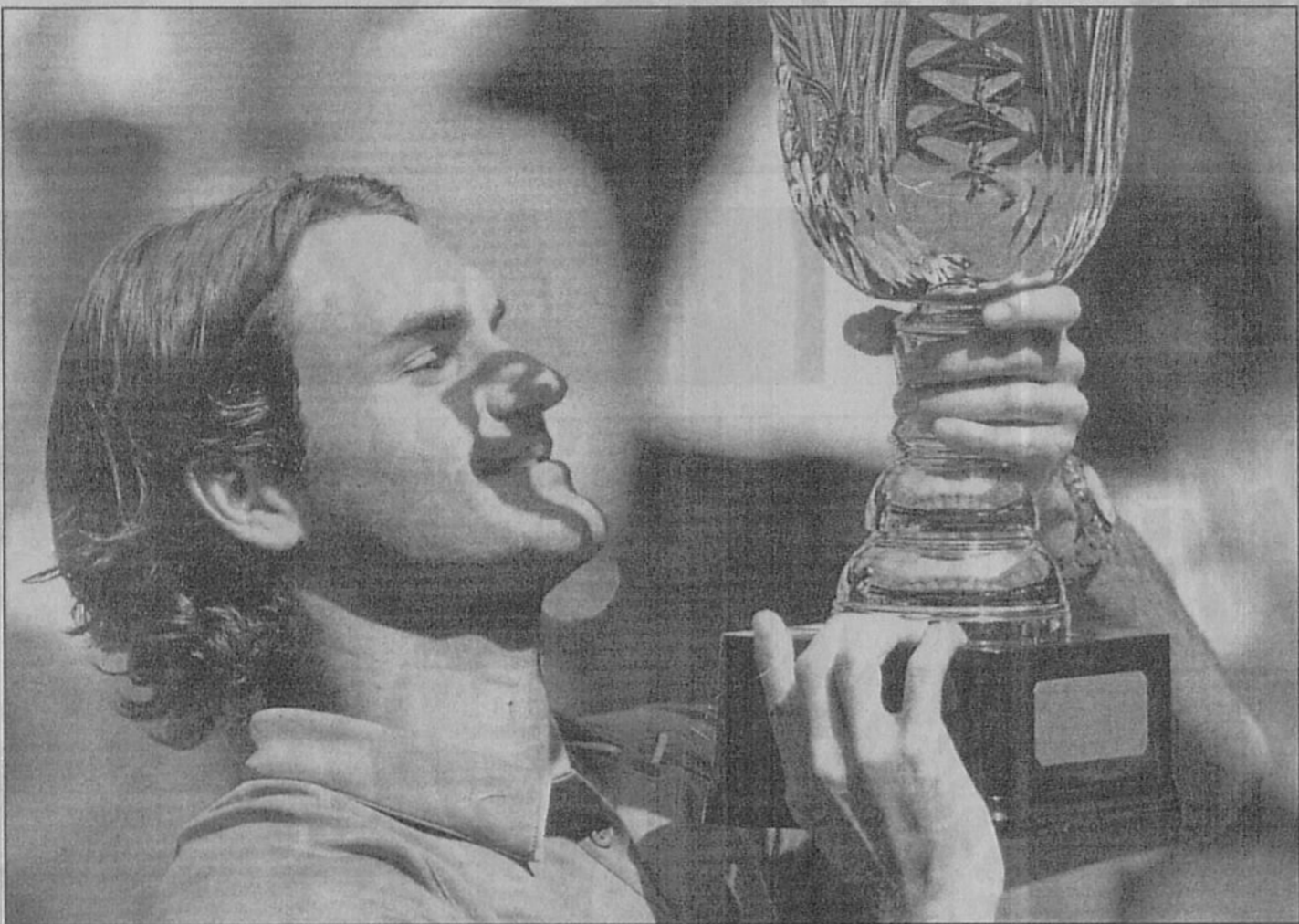
Second ODI

Live at 3:45 pm



Stephen Appiah
(Ghana football captain)

"It's fantastic. We showed we can do it. I thank the Ghanaians for their massive support and the Germans, who were shouting 'Ghana, Ghana. I couldn't believe it. I was nearly crying.' After their stunning 2-0 victory over the Czech Republic in the World Cup.



Switzerland's Roger Federer with the trophy after winning the ATP tennis tournament in Halle on Sunday.

Roger on par with Bjorn



AFP, Halle

Roger Federer equalled Bjorn Borg's record for consecutive grass court victories when he won his fourth successive Halle title on Sunday.

The world number one defeated fifth seed Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 6-0, 6-7, 6-2 in the final.

It was his 41st consecutive win on grass and equalled Borg's mark

set between 1976 and 1981.

The Swiss can set a new record when he opens the defence of his Wimbledon title the week after next.

"This is a great moment for me. Coming in the week directly after the French Open it was especially hard for me," said a tired Federer who saw his bid to win an elusive French Open title thwarted by Rafael Nadal at Roland Garros last weekend.

"Halle has always brought me luck in recent years. I hope it stays that way."

Federer's last defeat on grass came against Mario Ancic in the first round at Wimbledon in 2002.

The world number one came into the tournament as an overwhelming favourite but needed to win four consecutive three-set matches from the second round on to achieve a career first -- winning a title four straight times.

His sternest test came in the quarterfinals against Belgian Olivier Rochus when he needed to save four match points before advancing in three tie-break sets.

Latinos not liking the baton

FROM PAGE 17

not forcing a point which would have seen them put one foot in the second phase for the first time.

Coach Carlos Alberto Pereira said in most un-Brazilian fashion that "we imposed ourselves physically," while Ronaldo insisted that "we were better than we were against Croatia -- things are coming together for us."

Certainly past tournaments have suggested only a brave man would argue against the Brazilians moving through the gears from now on.

After squashing Serbia and Montenegro 6-0, Argentina are in contrast wary of peaking too early, with Jose Pekerman's albiceleste currently looking the team to beat -- as Pereira has already acknowledged.

"Argentina are a side on a par with Brazil when it comes to technical quality and they are well prepared. They are cool and not under any pressure," according to the man who won the 1994 title for the reigning champions.

Pekerman may regard such talk as a ploy to share out the pressure on the South American giants.

One man who knows both countries' respective merits well is Argentine midfielder Javier Mascherano, who plays his club football with Corinthians in Brazil

1958 inspiration

FROM PAGE 24

masterstroke in headhunting as he used the nucleus of the side that won the 1948 Olympic title to form a formidable side that even gave the rampant Hungarian side of the era a run for their money.

"If we win I'll paint Stalin's moustache (on his statue) red," vowed Raynor prior to a friendly in Budapest in 1954 - thankfully the Hungarian prison cell he would have been bound for had he carried out his promise was left unused as they drew 2-2.

Back then though the English FA must have been looking enviously over to Scandinavia when two weeks later their side under Walter Winterbottom was whipped 7-1 by the Hungarians.

Unlike Eriksson and his preparations for the World Cup Raynor had to cope with a huge debate over whether he could select the professional players playing in Serie A as the Swedish league was amateur at the time.

Finally he was given the green light and in a short space of time had managed to gel the team into a formidable force.

However just to show that even keen students of history do not learn from previous misjudgements so Eriksson did not in the 2-1 defeat in the 2002 quarter-final against Brazil.

"If Brazil go a goal behind in the final they will panic," said Raynor confidently in 1958 - they did but Pele, Mario Zagallo and their team ran out 5-2 winners.

and who insists the squad is unfazed by the odds shortening on a third Argentine triumph rather than his rivals completing a "Hexacampeon" sixth.

"We are not worried about all the talks about us. We have to think about getting a result against Holland (in the final group game in Frankfurt on Wednesday)," says Mascherano.

He admits that "now we are one of the favourites - but it isn't going to our head."

Esteban Cambiasso, the Inter Milan midfielder who completed a wonderful flowing move to net against the Serbs, says Brazil still set the standard even if their "jogo bonito" (beautiful game) has been little in evidence thus far.

"They are right up there because of the way they play and because of

the fact they hold the South American, Confederations and world titles," insists Cambiasso.

"But Argentina are among other candidates" for glory on June 9 in Berlin, he went on.

Whereas Brazil can only match their 2002 showing, the Argentines are on a mission to erase the memory of a flop which comprised a first-phase exit four years ago.

Yet in the current spirit of treating the favourites' tag as a hot potato Argentina's Maximiliano Rodriguez, on target twice against the Serbs, was on Sunday at pains to tell reporters that "so far we have only got through the first round."

On that early evidence, Argentina do not have to step it up -- but the same cannot be said of Brazil.

THIRD EYE

FROM PAGE 17

captain Mark Viduka cornered Brazil who only threatened to break on counter attacks. The second half, however, was not so disappointing. The presence of Ronaldo, nowhere near his lightning best but better than the first match, confirmed that two Australians were always on him. One of the reasons the Socceroos could not have more than four men during attacks! And it was Ronaldo who set up Brazil's first goal four minutes after the break. He drew a third defender after receiving Ronaldinho's through from the midfield and picked Adriano with a square pass on the edge of the penalty area. The Inter Milan striker, who had scored a spectacular goal last summer against Argentina, drilled in a left-footer to show he has lost little of his finesse.

Australia, who took the field to take one point, saw no reason to sit back any more and challenged their mighty rivals. Substitute Harry Kewell twice failed to put the ball into an empty goal, Bresciano was denied by Dida's superb one-handed save and Viduka headed the ball on a freekick just wide. Well, Brazil could have lost the match there.

However, two things happened when Ronaldo was taken off. Australia went all out with an added man in attack. Secondly, it inspired a 'conservative' Brazil to fly on the wings of Robinho.

And the last 15 minutes proved that Brazil are capable of winning from any tight situation. The 'team' that was absent returned and the rival backline had no answer for Robinho's flare. It easily could have been a 3-0 or 4-0 scoreline had not Kaka rattled the crossbar or shot from ten yards over the unguarded goal or Robinho's multiple attempts somehow missed the mark. In the end, it was Adriano the Emperor's replacement, Fred, who made it 2-0 with the simplest of touches when Robinho's shot came off the upright. Any indication of what to come in the next

three weeks?

Australia, however, need not feel down and look like the team to snatch at least one point from Croatia and make it to the last 16.

A goalless draw in the day's other group match between Croatia and Japan, meanwhile, left the Asians with an uphill task of beating Brazil in the last match. They must thank veteran goal keeper Kawaguchi to save a penalty from Dario Srna and keep them alive. Japan had their chances but their finishing could hardly reflect Brazilian coach Zico's aim to reach the last four. Sorry Japan, no chance of repeating 2002, perhaps.

At Leipzig, France scored a World Cup after 369 minutes when Thierry Henry, taking a miskicked effort that came to him off a deflection, gave a poacher's finish. The 1998 champions were unfortunate not to go 2-0 up when the assistant referee failed to notice that Patrick Vieira's header on a Zinedine Zidane corner had actually crossed the line.

And surprisingly, France decided to sit on the lone goal. Shall we blame Raymond Domenech, who suffocated his midfield by replacing Wiltord with Frank Ribery, leaving Henry alone and ruin their chances?

Dick Advocaat once again brought on Ahn Jung-hwan and the extra attacker gave Korea the edge, the pressure telling on the ageing goalkeeper Fabien Barthez nine minutes from time when Park Ji-sung delicately flicked the equaliser, bringing the anger out of William Gallas whose bid to clear the ball failed.

David Trezeguet finally came on the pitch, in the injury time, and it was too late. The man he replaced, Zidane, knew it could be his last World Cup appearance after picking up his second yellow card. He will miss the match against Togo, which the French must win to give one of their greatest footballers a chance to ride off into a glorious sunset.

WC BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 24

Lukas's diary

German striker Lukas Podolski is threatening to stop giving interviews to German radio station WDR after finding some of its satirical World Cup content about him below the belt.

The station broadcasts a humorous "Lukas's diary", but Poldi has not seen the funny side. "When it comes to something so low you have to defend yourself," said his agent Kon Schramm.

WDR says it will continue with the series regardless.

Don't celebrate goals

The World Cup is a potential boon for the German television licence authority as its snooper-vans chase after non-payers.

"We are reinforcing our teams during the World Cup," a spokesman said.

The snooper vans have a simple enough method of gaining a tip off as fans shout out every time there is a goal.

Cech mate

Czech keeper Peter Cech says he tried to persuade Argentine referee Horacio Elizondo to scrub a yellow card for Asamoah Gyan after the Ghanaian took a penalty before the man in the middle had blown his whistle.

"He took it as he heard a whistle behind the goal. He is innocent," said the Chelsea shot-stopper following the Black Stars' 2-0 win.

The booking means Gyan sits out the final group game against Team USA.



Baros resumes training

AFP, Westerborg

Czech striker Milan Baros will resume training on Monday after missing his country's first two matches in the World Cup, team spokesman Lukas Tucek said.

The Aston Villa forward, who was top scorer at Euro 2004 will be able to begin fitness work after an injury to his instep healed, but it was impossible to tell if he would be fit for the Czechs' crucial Group E game against Italy in Hamburg on Thursday.

The Czechs must beat Italy to be sure of qualifying.

The Czechs' other first-choice striker, Jan Koller, tore a thigh muscle in the 3-0 win over the United States and did not play when his team crashed to a 2-0 defeat against surprise packages Ghana in their second match.

Another forward, Vratislav Lokvenc, will be suspended for the final group game after receiving his second yellow card of the tournament in the Ghana match.

Baros suffered the injury in a warm-up game against Trinidad and Tobago.

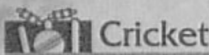
Hoeness for Hargreaves

INTERNET, undated

Bayern Munich general manager Uli Hoeness has criticised English supporters who have jeered Owen Hargreaves during England's opening matches at the World Cup finals.

The outspoken Hoeness, a World Cup winner in 1974, reacted to the disgraceful performance of a minority of fans by claiming arro-

2ND SL-ENG ODI TODAY Duncan asks for calm



BBC ONLINE, undated

England coach Duncan Fletcher has asked for understanding from fans for the rest of the one-day series against Sri Lanka after his side lost the opening game.

Five of Fletcher's first-choice side are missing the series, which continues at The Oval on Tuesday, through injury.

"Last year we played well against Australia in the one-day series - people keep forgetting," he said.

"If you take two players out it makes a difference. Take four or five out and it's a huge gap to fill."

England's 20-run defeat at Lord's on Saturday was their 11th in their last 15 matches.

Andrew Flintoff was ruled out of this series as he rests an injured left ankle. Squad newcomers Glen Chapple (abdominal strain) and Ed Joyce (ankle) have since joined the casualty list.

Kabir Ali, a seamer and lower-order batsman, joined the squad as cover for Chapple while England opted not to replace Joyce with Ian Bell and Alastair Cook in the squad.

The injury crisis has at least allowed the hosts to give young players an opportunity to step up and Jamie Dalrymple stood out with 67 from 87 balls on his home

ground on Saturday.

But the 25-year-old said: "The bottom line is the result of the game."

"I can take small personal satisfaction in hindsight, but obviously we're all disappointed to be 1-0 down and keen to put it right."

"I've had the chance to play a couple of games a cricket that maybe I wasn't expecting to play in, I've enjoyed it and I'll keep trying to do that."

Meanwhile, fast bowler Dilhara Fernando will look to build on a strong showing on his return to the Sri Lanka side.

Fernando, who had struggled with a no-ball problem, took 3-51 and captain Mahela Jayawardene said: "He has shown a lot of character to come back after some time."

"He worked hard back home and has shown hunger to get back into the side, which is excellent."

TEAMS
ENGLAND (from): A Strauss (captain), I Bell, T Bresnan, P Collingwood, A Cook, J Dalrymple, S Harmison, G Jones, A Loudon, S Mahmood, K Pietersen, L Plunkett, M Trescothick, K Ali.
SRI LANKA (from): M Jayawardene (captain), K Sangakkara, M Muralitharan, S Jayasuriya, U Tharanga, T Dilshan, C Kapugedera, R Arnold, F Maharoof, C Vaas, L Malinga, D Fernando, R Perera, M Bandara.

Klose, Podolski getting on well

AFP, Berlin

Germany's top World Cup marksman Miroslav Klose has denied having a fall-out with his junior strike partner Lukas Podolski.

The 28-year-old Klose offered some words of advice to Podolski, 21, after his poor showing in the 1-0 win over Poland and newspaper Bild daily claimed there had been a rift between the two Polish-born forwards.

Klose had not been pencilled in for Monday's press conference but turned out to diffuse the situation before Tuesday's match with Ecuador.

"There is no problem between myself and Lukas. We get on well," Klose said.

"I just said he needed to move more. It was encouragement."

"I was just trying to help him as we all are. He is a young player and we all know he is a sensational striker."

While Klose has scored twice in the finals -- both goals coming against Costa Rica -- Podolski has failed to hit the net and looked out of his depth.

There has been speculation that manager Jurgen Klinsmann would take Podolski out of the firing line against Ecuador but Klose refused to give anything away.

"I expect us both to start. I have not heard anything different," said the Werder Bremen striker.

Swiss come

FROM PAGE 17

their lead, the keeper doing well to deny second-half substitute Hakan Yakin on the hour but he was almost caught out by a Frei pot shot from near the halfway line.

Kuhn, mindful that goal difference could figure highly in who goes into the second round, bolstered his attack by replacing Cabanas with Cologne forward Marco Streller.

But it was to be Barnetta with a low angled shot from the right who was to come up with Switzerland's second two minutes from time.

TEAMS

SWITZERLAND: Pascal Zuberbuhler; Philipp Degen, Patrick Muller, Philippe Senderos, Ludovic Magnin; Tranquillo Barnetta, Ricardo Cabanas (Marco Streller 77), Johann Vogel, Raphael Wicky; Daniel Gyga (Hakan Yakin 46); Alexander Frei (Mauro Lustinelli 88).

Yellow card: Vogel (90+2)
TOGO: Kossi Agassa; Assiimoiu Toure, Massamasso Tchimgou, Dare Nibombe, Richmond Forson; Thomas Dossevi (Yao Junior Senaya 69), Kuami Agboh (Moustapha Salifou 25), Alaisys Romao, Cherif Toure (Robert Malm 87); Mohamed Kader, Emmanuel Adebayor.

Yellow card: Salifou (45), Adebayor (47), Romao (52)

Referee: C Amariella (Paraguay)

Attendance: 65,000

BITS AND BOBS

gance was at the root of the problem.

"The big problem with the English people is that they are too short-sighted," said Hoeness. "They are very arrogant because they think that football begins and ends within the borders of their country. They believe that no one else can play good football outside of England."

Hargreaves, a Champions' League and Bundesliga winner during his tremendously successful time at Bayern, is tipped for action by many observers as England seeks to rectify their alarming midfield imbalance.

"When I look at England's midfield formation so far in this World Cup, I think 'Thank you, Mr Eriksson' because I know they can not work," he said. "How can you have Beckham, Gerrard, Lampard and Joe Cole all together? Everyone wants to run forward. Who will be the defensive midfielder there?"

Hoeness also believes that Hargreaves is the solution. "If people had ever taken the time to watch Owen Hargreaves they would have seen he has done extremely well for Bayern and that he can do the same for England when he is given the chance to do so," he concluded.

Believe in us: Deco

INTERNET, undated

Deco made his long-awaited World Cup debut in style as the Brazilian-born number 20 wallopped home an assist from Luis Figo in the 63rd minute of Portugal's match against Iran, sending 25,000 Lusitanian fans wild with joy in the Frankfurt stadium.

"The most important thing wasn't the goal, it was the fact that my goal helped Portugal through to qualify for the last sixteen. I firmly feel that people need to start believing in us. We believe that we can do it and that's exactly what we intend to show the world", he stressed.

Although he wasn't as immodest as to suggest that his presence had been a key catalyst for a visible improvement in the Selecao, Deco was pleased with the progress made -- seeing great promise, but also warning against the pitfalls of early success.

"We've started on the right foot by winning the first and getting the team qualified by the end of the second... I fully believe that we can bet any team here; although we can also lose to any team as the level between the nations is by-and-large very similar."

English wives go shopping

AFP, Berlin

Victoria Beckham and the other England World Cup 'WAGS' (wives and girlfriends) stormed the luxury boutiques of Baden-Baden at the weekend, spending 80,000 euros (101,000 dollars) in one hour, according to a report Monday.

The mass-market daily Bild said six of the women who joined the English side in the upscale resort town, including the former Spice Girl (wife of David Beckham) and girlfriends Coleen McLoughlin (Wayne Rooney), Melanie Slade (Theo Walcott), Cheryl Tweedy (Ashley Cole) and Nancy Dell'Olio (coach Sven-Goran Eriksson) had

gone on a manic shopping spree.

"While their bread-winners trained for the next match on Tuesday, the ladies worked on their shopping endurance," Bild said.

The women spent 4,395 euros in 10 minutes alone on shoes and T-shirts, with the rest going for creations from Dolce and Gabbana, Prada and Versace, according to the report.

"I hope England stays in the competition for a while," delighted boutique owner Monika Scholz was quoted as saying.

Spalletti defends de Rossi

INTERNET, undated

The Roma coach had words of praise for the Italian midfielder, despite his expulsion in the match against USA.

Luciano Spalletti came out to defend his young player, Daniele de Rossi, from the harsh criticism he has received in the past couple of days, following the terrible elbow he inflicted to McBride during Italy-USA.

"For me Daniele remains a great person and a great player."

"The closeness between the will, grit and the determination which Daniele puts on the pitch, turns an episode into a foul which many have believed to be voluntary."

"However he is only trying to make space, on the contrary, but instead it becomes a foul and it ends this way."

De Rossi is expected to receive a lengthy ban, which will most likely end his World Cup adventure.