



Saudia Arabia striker Yasser al Qahtani (C) stabs the ball into the back of the net in their Asian Cup quarterfinal against Uzbekistan at the Bung Karno Stadium in Jakarta on Sunday.

Podolski vows

FROM PAGE 20
Despite interest from other Bundesliga clubs keen to get his signature, Podolski has told his agent he does not want to be at any other club.
"I have told my adviser, I am not prepared to leave and I want to prove myself here, there is no way I want to leave after just one year. I am only 22 and I want to play for Bayern for several years."
Still recovering from knee surgery last April, Podolski is unlikely to be ready for Bayern's first Bundesliga game of the season againsts Hansa Rostock on August 11, but is only a few weeks off resuming full training.
"After the knee operation, I need more time to let the knee settle down, I am in no hurry, I want to look after it now to make sure I can play football on it for years to come."

Alonso win

FROM PAGE 20
Heidfeld sixth for BMW.
The final point-scorers were Heidfeld's teammate Robert Kubica and Heikki Kovalainen of Renault who were seventh and eighth respectively.

The race started in a sprinkling of rain, Massa darted past Alonso into second place while Kubica and Heidfeld collided just behind.

Heidfeld, the German racing in front of his home crowd, came off worse and had to go into the pits for extensive repairs.

Then the heavens opened. Track conditions quickly became treacherous and the need for wet weather tyres became obvious.

Kawaguchi

FROM PAGE 20
with a carbon copy quarter-final result -- winning 4-3 on penalties against Jordan after a 1-1 stalemate.

"There were many (English) Premier League players among the opponents (Australia) and their goalkeeper was excellent," said Kawaguchi, who struggled at Portsmouth in 2001-2003 and at Denmark's Nordsjaelland in 2003-2004.

"But I really didn't want to lose because it was an even game."

John Aloisi opened the scoring for Australia in the 69th minute only for Frankfurt striker Naohiro Takahara to level three minutes later.

Takahara said he had learned through videos that Australia's defence tended to be deceived by feint kicks.

"They were easily tricked," said Takahara after his tournament-high fourth goal.

"I faked a kick as I wanted and I could wrong-foot the opponents easily. Then I closely watched the 'keeper before I made that shot."

Korea edge

FROM PAGE 20
Striker Yeom Ki-hun almost broke the deadlock on the hour when his shot bobbed off the wet surface and Rodbarian did well to turn it away for a corner and keep his goal intact.

The match went into extra-time and Javad Nekounam looked poised to score at the end of the first period when his drive off a Karimi lay-off flashed just wide of the left post.

In the final minute of extra-time Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei switched goalkeepers with Vahid Talebloo coming on for Rodbarian as he planned his strategy for the penalty shoot-out.

Ghalenoei defended his controversial tactic.

"He is very good with penalties, he saved 17 in training so I believed in that substitution," he said, adding that he would review his position once the dust had settled as he prepares for a backlash in Tehran.

"We did well tactically and physically," he said. "I insist on taking full responsibility for the result. The Iranian players need to be supported for the future."

Saudi squeeze into semis

AFP, Jakarta



The woodwork and a linesman's flag helped Saudi Arabia beat Uzbekistan 2-1 in the Asian Cup here on Sunday and sneak into the semifinals.

The unlucky former Soviet Republic clattered the frame of the goal five times and had a goal wrongly ruled out for offside as they crashed out to the oil-rich kingdom in a thrilling contest.

It was a flying start as Saudi Arabia took the lead after only three minutes with Uzbekistan hitting the post two minutes later.

Abdulrahman Al Qahtani outpaced Anvar Gafurov down the Saudi left and sent a teasing cross into the box.

Uzbek goalkeeper Ignatyi Nesterov got a hand to it but could only divert the ball to Yasser Al Qahtani, who finished with aplomb.

But two minutes later Server Djeparov finished off a brilliant

Uzbek move by hitting the upright with Yasser Al Mosailem beaten in the Saudi goal.

Uzbekistan quickly took total control of proceedings but a lack of concentration at the back meant the Saudis remained dangerous.

On 19 minutes Uzbekistan struck wood again, this time captain Maksim Shatskikh's deflected shot just grazing the post.

Just before the half hour Shatskikh seemed to have earned his side a richly deserved equaliser after mopping up a loose ball in the box but he was denied by a ridiculous offside flag, despite being yards outside.

Uzbekistan almost paid a high price as Yasser Al Qahtani skipped clear but fired narrowly wide when one-on-one with Nesterov.

The second half began in much the same vein as the majority of the first with Uzbekistan again clattering the woodwork, Ibragimov's bouncing header from Djeparov's cross cannoning back off the bar this time.

But the Uzbeks escaped on 53 minutes when Hayrulla Karimov

was shown just a yellow card for bringing down Abdulrahman Al Qahtani, who would otherwise have been clean through.

The talented Saudis were now enjoying more success on the counter-attack as Uzbekistan pushed forward in an end-to-end game.

Saudi substitute Ahmed Al Mousa could have finished the game but Nesterov saved his chipped finish when clean through.

But only a minute later he seemingly did exactly that, firing in off the post after another slicing Saudi move.

Uzbekistan finally got the goal their play deserved eight minutes from the end as another substitute Pavel Solomin prodded home after his team hit the woodwork for the fourth time.

A minute later and Alexander Geynrikh, yet another sub, tumbled the post again. But still there was time for Al Jassam to dance into the box only for his close-range effort to be saved.

Justice for some



IAN CHAPPELL

When the subject of third-umpire referrals was first raised in the 1990s, my initial concern was that it would result in a system of justice for some but not for all.

My fears were confirmed on a storm-affected second day at Lord's. At the self-appointed 'home of cricket', Kevin Pietersen walked after being given out caught behind, but then turned on his heel and returned to the crease following a television replay and advice from outside the playing field that the catch was not 'clean'.

There is a certain irony in the fact that a basic tenet of the game was violated at the ground where the catchphrase 'It's not cricket' could well have been conceived. As a young cricketer, the first thing you learn is the correct grip, closely followed by 'the umpire is always right.' In this case, it turned out umpire Simon Taufel was not correct, but it was a mistake born of the best intentions.

A few years ago the affable Taufel told me: 'I'm like the players. I want to test myself.' He was referring to his tendency to adjudicate on appeals rather than rely heavily on confirmation from the third umpire. It is that pride in making correct decisions that has seen Taufel stand out from his fellow arbiters, resulting in him three times being voted the ICC's Umpire of the Year. He is to be

commended for his desire to make his own decisions, but his resolve to continue doing so will now be weakened by what happened at Lord's on a day when the wild weather didn't create the biggest storm.

The fact that a few hours later Taufel did call on the third umpire to decide a clear-cut run-out decision involving India's nightwatchman RP Singh, was confirmation that the 'Pietersen affair' had temporarily shaken his nerve.

Ironically, the incorrect Pietersen decision would have been satisfactorily resolved under the old system. I suspect the square-leg umpire Steve Bucknor either knew the ball hadn't carried to keeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, or was sufficiently enough concerned to convince Taufel to change his mind and give Pietersen the benefit of the doubt.

Third-umpire referrals were introduced to protect the umpire. It was felt that technology provided the television viewer with so much more information that umpires were likely to be lambasted if the playing field wasn't levelled and the adjudicator given the benefit of all the available evidence. The sentiment is worthy, but like so many decisions taken by cricket administrators it wasn't properly thought through.

Much of what is provided by television isn't tangible evidence; it is actually a tool to enhance the viewers' entertainment. Television replays shouldn't be used as evidence of an umpire's failings or to judge his worth as a participant at

the highest level.

Despite great advances in technology it is still the case that the bulk of the decisions are best decided from on the field. Hence my original concern, that the referral system would provide justice for some but not for all, still applies. For instance, we saw Pietersen relieved at Lord's, but where is the recourse for a bowler who feels his appeal has not been given a fair hearing? He doesn't have any. The system only provides justice for some, but there's no denying the game is at its best when the contest between bat and ball is evenly balanced.

Incompetent umpiring causes much of the conflict between opposing players on a cricket field. The referral system will lead to a general lowering of standards, as the basis of good umpiring is a desire to make decisions and a conviction that they are nearly always correct. Certainly the injustices of the referral system will inspire further rancour in bowlers, and heaven knows they have long been the second-class citizens of the game.

As a young cricketer the third thing you learned, after the grip and the umpire is always right, is: all wickets from one to ten are equal in value. That is no longer the case and that premise is now about as meaningful as the saying 'It's not cricket'.

(Ian Chappell, the former Australian captain, wrote this article in *CricInfo*).

40 years of Lord's PA



CRICINFO, undated

"Good morning and welcome to Lord's," announced the public address system on the first morning of play between England and India. And with that, Johnny Dennis, the permanent voice of cricket at Lord's for 12 years and every other major international involving England, marked 40 years since the public address (PA) was first introduced during the India series in 1967.

Prior to the age of loud speakers, MCC employed a man to walk around the ground with an enormous wheel and a chalkboard attached to it. Pity the poor man who had to inform the public of pitch inspections if the same had been in place during this rain-affected Test at Lord's.

"On it would be chalked 'England have won the toss,'" Dennis said. "Then he would walk around the ground again with the player

changes and the scorecard at the intervals. And that was public address circa 1920s."

Later, at clubs around the country, it would be the job of the club secretary to bellow through a megaphone to punters doing wrong on the boundary.

"Suddenly PA came on the scene and the audience was treated with a great deal of respect," recalls Dennis, who has voiced over 160 Tests and 200 ODIs.

The role of public announcer at Lord's was started by accident by a group of British actors who drank in front of the old Tavern stand. They included Trevor Howard, Richard Burton and Sir John Mills, who was the founder president of the Lord's Taverners.

"At charity games," Dennis said, "the Taverners had an announcer and a Lord's official who was present one day thought this a good idea."

The first PA at the second Test against India in June 1967 were John Snagge, the BBC's

newsreader during the Second World War, and Alan Curtis, who later authored a book on public address, and PA at Lord's until Dennis took over full-time, a role that Dennis professes as "all hard work and homework".

"My attitude is of treating people as if they are coming to the ground for the first time," he says of his job. "With the touring sides, my Test match usually starts on the Monday. I go to the nets, lunch with them, find out pronunciations and most importantly the kind of logos they have and what kind of gloves they will use. From a distance, this is the only kind of clue I have."

"Lord's is such a cathedral of cricket that you act as a kind of audio guide you have to pitch it right, but in a voice that translates that you are proud to be working there."

Then there is the old PA's adage that you should wait to the batsmen have crossed until you mention the incoming player.

Harvey to wait a week

BBC ONLINE, undated

Australian all-rounder Ian Harvey will find out next week if he can play again for Derbyshire this season.

The 35-year-old has been in limbo since his application for British citizenship was rejected by the Home Office because of a drink-driving offence in May.

The England and Wales Cricket Board have also refused to register him as a non-overseas player.

There was no action on day two of Derbyshire's Division Two match against Glamorgan because of rain.

Steady drizzle prevented play before lunch and, although it stopped for a while, another shower shortly before umpires Graham Burgess and Neil Mallender were due to inspect at 1600 GMT ended any hopes of resumption.

The County Ground had already taken a soaking on the opening day when storms prevented any play after lunch, with Glamorgan 69-3.

Crowe's no

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after Chappell did not renew his contract with BCCI following their disastrous World Cup in March.

The BCCI, which ignored Australian Dav Whatmore's interest in the job, is looking for a right candidate to fill in Chappell's shoes after players' choice Graham Ford turned down the offer.

KP puts

FROM PAGE 17
Anderson not out 4
Extras: (b-9, lb-1, w-2) 12
Total: (All out in 78.3 overs) 282
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-43, 3-102, 4-114, 5-132, 6-251, 7-251, 8-266, 9-275

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	28	6	79	4
Sreesanth	16	3	62	0
RP Singh	16.3	3	59	5
Kumble	17	3	70	1
Tendulkar	1	0	2	0

Pulling

FROM PAGE 17
At Mumbai last year, again against an Anderson led-attack, they fell to a similar trap. A couple of months later, on a Sabina Park minefield they nearly gave it all away before a couple of Rahul Dravid masterpieces sneaked them the series.

India's batsmen have been celebrated, their records have been spoken of highly and their previous exploits hyped. Bowlers are supposed to win games, batsmen are supposed to set them up. The problem we have here is slightly different: India's bowlers are setting them up nicely but the batsmen don't seem to possess the nous to win them.

Tevez affair

FROM PAGE 20
equalised Robbie Keane's opener. But the edge was taken off Tottenham's day by an injury in the first five minutes to their new centre-back, Younes Kaboul, who broke a tooth when was caught by Bartlett's boot.

Roy Keane took Sunderland to Scunthorpe, but it proved to be a disappointing first outing for his new signings Michael Chopra and Dickson Etuhu, who finished their debuts on the losing side. Martin Paterson scored the only goal after two minutes.

Jose plays down

FROM PAGE 20
opponent such as Chelsea, at that level," Mourinho said. "Maybe it was because it was sold out, I don't know."

"But they gave us a hard game. The result could have been different because we had the chance to score many goals but at this moment in pre-season I prefer matches with difficulties than easy matches."

"They played against us with belief, with big concentration and defensively very well but I'm happy with the game. We won the match as we wanted to do. We played for about an hour in 4-4-2, which is a method I want to use."

"We played for the last half an hour with three defenders which was an experience I wanted them to have because during the season we'll have some matches where we must play like this."

"We finished this part of pre-season without any major injuries, only the one with (Wayne) Bridge, but after that no injuries and I go to London very happy."

Celebrating

FROM PAGE 20
dominos," he says.

So if none of these guys fired guns in the air, then who did?

"The Iraqi police and the national police," Ammar the shopkeeper says.

"After the games you will see them express their joy by firing their weapons in the air. But the normal people don't do it because they are too scared."

Such 'friendly fire' can also be fatal, however. Interior and defence ministry officials told AFP that at least three people were killed and 25 wounded by falling bullets during the celebrations.

Australia's harsh lesson

AFP, Hanoi



Australia and its highly paid European-based stars were hotly tipped to waltz through the Asian Cup on their debut appearance, but they learnt a hard lesson.

Asia is not Europe and playing in the sprawling continent is tougher than they thought, but it was invaluable experience as they prepare for the 2010 World Cup qualifiers where they will encounter similar conditions.

"We have learned a lot in the last couple of weeks, Asia is very difficult," admitted coach Graham Arnold after watching his team lose in a penalty shootout to defending champions Japan in the quarter-finals here on Saturday.

"The expectations I put on the team were semifinals minimum and so obviously it's below expectations."

"This is the toughest loss I have suffered in my coaching career, guaranteed," he added, knowing that it could also be the last defeat he experiences as the Australian coach with his job hanging by a thread.

"We have done a lot of work to get where we are and I think the players responded. Our form

wasn't great in the first two games, but I thought we showed a huge improvement over the four games."

Despite being reduced to 10 men for the final 15 minutes of regulation time against Japan when Vince Grella was sent off for elbowing Naohiro Takahara, the Socceroos clung on to take the match to extra-time and penalties.

At the crunch, Harry Kewell and Lucas Neill, two of the team's most experienced players, were unable to convert their spot kicks.

What really took Australia by surprise was the gruelling hot and humid conditions in Asia, as well as the quality of the opposition.

"The main lessons are next time we qualify for the World Cup, it's not going to be as easy as we think," Kewell said.

"We're going to make sure we play 10 times better than what we proved at this Asian Cup."

"I think we'll take a different approach to Asia now. We've got a taste of it, we know what it's all about now."

Spain-based John Aloisi knows that the experience will serve them well on the road to South Africa.

"I think if we didn't play in this Asian Cup and went straight into the World Cup qualifiers, we'll probably get a big shock. Now we are sure about what we can expect," he said.

"Our players were not used to

playing in these conditions but this is what we have to look forward to in the future."

Arnold voiced similar sentiments, saying it was perfect preparation for next years World Cup qualifiers, where Australia will be making their first appearance in the Asian qualifying campaign after defecting from Oceania.

"It's shown the players that the road ahead is going to be very difficult," he said.

"And it's also shown the people at home and Football Australia that we are going to have 12 World Cup qualifiers ... in conditions and surroundings like this when all of our players are going to be playing in Europe, so it's going to be very difficult."

Captain Mark Viduka, whose international future is up in the air, said the whole squad was disappointed, but praised them for showing character after being heavily criticised for their performances in their first two group games.

"Obviously, we are disappointed not to have won the match. I think everybody showed a lot of character to get to that stage (penalty shootout) after we went one man down," said the Newcastle striker.

"Considering all the circumstances, I think everybody is glad of it. It was a very good experience."

Like old times



MIKE ATHERTON

Nothing illustrates the unforgiving nature of sport more than a peek at the bottom third of England's scorecard for this Test match. Gone are the celebrated "Big Four" who hunted so successfully as a pack during the Ashes summer of 2005. In their places at Lord's were a less celebrated threesome. But over the last two days at least James Anderson, Chris Tremlett and Ryan Sidebottom have lost nothing in comparison.

Collectively, this has been England's best seam-bowling performance since those heady days of 2005: intelligent, aggressive, subtle, and above all consistently accurate. In other words, proper Test match bowling.

One of the less appealing aspects of the previous England regime was the constant referring back to injuries. Sure, injuries can be debilitating, but they are an integral part of the sporting landscape. It is far better to look upon them as opportunities rather than hindrances.

After all, but for Ashley Giles's dodgy hip Monty Panesar might still be plying his trade at Northampton. There was no toast to absent friends in the build-up to this match, despite the late withdrawal of Matthew Hoggard, and this will have surely helped.

The jewel that gleamed most brightly was Anderson, restored to home Test match duty after three years in the wilderness. It has taken a long time but it looks as though the rough diamond we greeted with enthusiasm two Australian tours ago has finally matured into a polished gem. His was an outstanding display of controlled swing bowling, bringing him as it did his best Test analysis, a five-for at Lord's and a place on the treasured honours board in the home dressing room.

It will be a fondly remembered performance, with the wickets of Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly among his haul. The dismissal of Ganguly, early in the piece on Saturday morning, illustrated why Anderson is such a handful on his day. He

has spent the last 12 months perfecting his in- swinger (the outswinger to the left-handed Ganguly), which he now bowls to order with a minimal change of wrist action. Anderson began by consistently moving the ball across Ganguly, tempting him to drive through the off side and dragging him across his crease before darting one back through the gate.

As swing bowling goes, it could hardly have been bettered. Indeed, when Anderson is on song he is a more dangerous proposition than Hoggard, his arm being higher, the angle of delivery coming into the right-hander and therefore the swing much later. He has yet to display Hoggard's consistency and heart and stamina, but surely England have found a natural replacement.

In this coming, Anderson has generated as much excitement as he did when he first burst on to the international scene, seemingly straight out of the Lancashire League, four years ago.

But, of course, this is an older, wiser Anderson, less likely, I would have thought, to celebrate his success by daily changing his hairstyle. A difficult few years, with injuries, loss of form and a remodeling or two of his action, have brought a greater maturity and awareness of how fragile success can be. Good form needs to be cherished and nurtured and success appreciated.

It is easy to forget sometimes that for all the plaudits Troy Cooley received, Anderson was one of his failures. He came into the England set-up with a natural, if unorthodox action. The assumption was that unless he altered that action, injuries would follow. But with the remodelling came a lessening of effectiveness, a loss of swing and pace. He has now reverted to his natural action (there is a reason they call it that), has lost none of his litheness or whiplash through the crease, and is reaping the benefits. Bowling in the middle for Lancashire, rather than ferrying drinks around as 12th man for England, has helped too.

Chris Tremlett took just the solitary wicket but was far more impressive than his figures suggest. The selectors were right to

promote him over Stuart Broad. It caused bemusement in some quarters that Broad, the initial selection, did not automatically play.

But the selectors have one job, and one job only: to pick the best 11 for the occasion, and so impressive was Tremlett in the build-up to the game, causing all England's batsmen the most discomfort in the nets, that they were well within their rights to alter their thinking. Better to go with a gut instinct than to be left wondering "what if?"

Tremlett has always had the basic ingredients; a combination of pace, bounce and accuracy is the perfect template of a Test match bowler. But up until Friday afternoon, when his eight-over spell at Wasim Jaffer and Ganguly ended and glowingly announced the arrival of someone with not just basic talent but a competitive instinct as well, there had always been something infuriating about his hand-dog body language. It appeared he needed someone to shake him up and remind him of his gifts and the opportunity they represent.

According to Shane Warne's newspaper column in The Times, Warne was that man. He said that he had a "heart to heart" with Tremlett, was "stern" with him, and (not a pleasant thought this) got "in his face" to tell him that he was letting himself down and wasting his gifts.

There has also been a slight technical adjustment, shortening his run (Andrew Caddick, another beanpole, did the same) to allow his weight to go forward through the crease, so gaining maximum advantage from his height.

That combination of honest assessment and technical tinkering seems to have done the job. If his body can stand the strain, England have certainly found another bowler.

(Mike Atherton, the former England captain, wrote this article for the Sunday Telegraph website).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	wrong	DOWN	18
1 Big Bad	43 Opposite of "post-"	1 Jinx	Golfer's concern
2 Wolf's breaths	44 Put up	2 Still in the box	21 Santa's runways
6 Sand-trap	46 Crying sound	3 Nourished	23 Station
11 Slain	effect	4 Not so tall tales?	25 Scratch
12 Big lizard	47 15-	5 Villain's countenance	27 Young Mr.
14 Start of a Cole Porter	49 47-	6 Mobster	29 Safe haven
15 14-Across follower	51 Law-rence's balliwick	7 Hollywood clashers	31 Anatomical partitions
16 Billboard	17 Graf rival	8 Press for	32 Imperfections
19 Pitch	20 Active one	52 Obliterates	33 Shoe reinforcement
22 Equipment	53 Let flow accidentally	9 Spat	34 Ram's ma'am
23 Ms. Moore	54 "Monopoly" payments	11 Pairs	36 Bottom
24 Sin city		13 High nest	37 Warehouse stack
26 Muse of music			38 Group character
28 Rowing tool			41 Yellow-brown shade
30 Shriek			44 Old-time actor
31 Release			45 Want like 90
35 Sweet (Ital.)			48 Sapporo sash
39 Cupid's alias			50 Fellow
40 Seesaw quorum			
42 Legal			

Solution time: 27 mins.

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