

KYUT STRIKES BRACE

L'pool lucky at derby

AFP, Liverpool

 **Dirk Kuyt** displayed nerves of steel to earn Liverpool a dramatic victory over nine-man Everton as a controversial Merseyside derby ended in a 2-1 win for Rafa Benitez's men at Goodison Park on Saturday.

Benitez's side looked to be heading for defeat against their neighbours when Sami Hyypia's astonishing own goal gave the hosts a first-half lead.

But Kuyt kept his cool from the penalty spot to equalise after skipper Steven Gerrard had been fouled by Tony Hibbert in the 54th minute.

Everton were forced to play the final 38 minutes with 10 men after Hibbert was dismissed by referee Mark Clattenburg for his foul on Gerrard.

Yet David Moyes's side looked like holding out for a point before Kuyt won it from the penalty spot with virtually the last kick of an absorbing game after Phil Neville had handled a goal-bound shot by Lucas which earned the Everton

captain his marching orders.

The hosts had waited for this game since an ill-advised and graceless outburst from Benitez following February's goalless draw at Anfield.

Annoyed by what he saw as Everton's negativity, rather than focusing on his own team's impotence, Benitez made a reference to "small clubs", much to the fury of all at Goodison Park. The remarks have not been forgotten at Everton.

Stoking the fires ahead of the high stakes encounter, defender Alan Stubbs opted to pour scorn on Liverpool's title credentials, making pointed reference to Benitez's lavish pre-season spending.

With Everton having lost three of their previous four top-flight games and Liverpool's unconvincing form since losing pole position in the table last month, this was a game neither side dared lose and that was demonstrated in a high tempo first half which started slowly before ending with Everton deservedly ahead.

Fernando Torres's absence ensured Andriy Voronin got his first taste of a Merseyside derby and the

Ukraine striker went close to making an early breakthrough when his fifth minute shot, following excellent work by Yossi Benayoun, was spilt by Tim Howard.

The first sign of trouble for Liverpool arrived in the 24th minute when keeper Pepe Reina flapped at Leon Osman's cross before Victor Anichebe's header landed on the roof after an inswinging free-kick by Mikel Arteta nine minutes later.

Benitez's side failed to heed the warnings and in the 38th minute Goodison Park erupted when Hyypia gave his own keeper no chance while attempting a clearance. The Finland international, who was criticised for his performance in his side's previous outing against Tottenham, volleyed past a shocked Reina after Everton defender Joleon Lescott had flicked on a cross by Stubbs.

Liverpool were clearly shell-shocked and four minutes later their defence was again in tatters when Leon Osman narrowly failed to double Everton's lead following a super move involving Phil Neville and Lescott.

Voronin and Momo Sissoko then spurned glorious chances to win it for Liverpool before the most dramatic of finishes resulted in Everton finishing with nine men and Benitez's side snatching all three points.

Everton looked like holding out for a draw when Liverpool substitute Lucas let fly with a goal bound effort which beat Howard but was kept out by the hands of Neville.

Referee Clattenburg had no choice but to send Neville off and Kuyt stepped up to give Liverpool one of the most dramatic victories in Merseyside derby history.

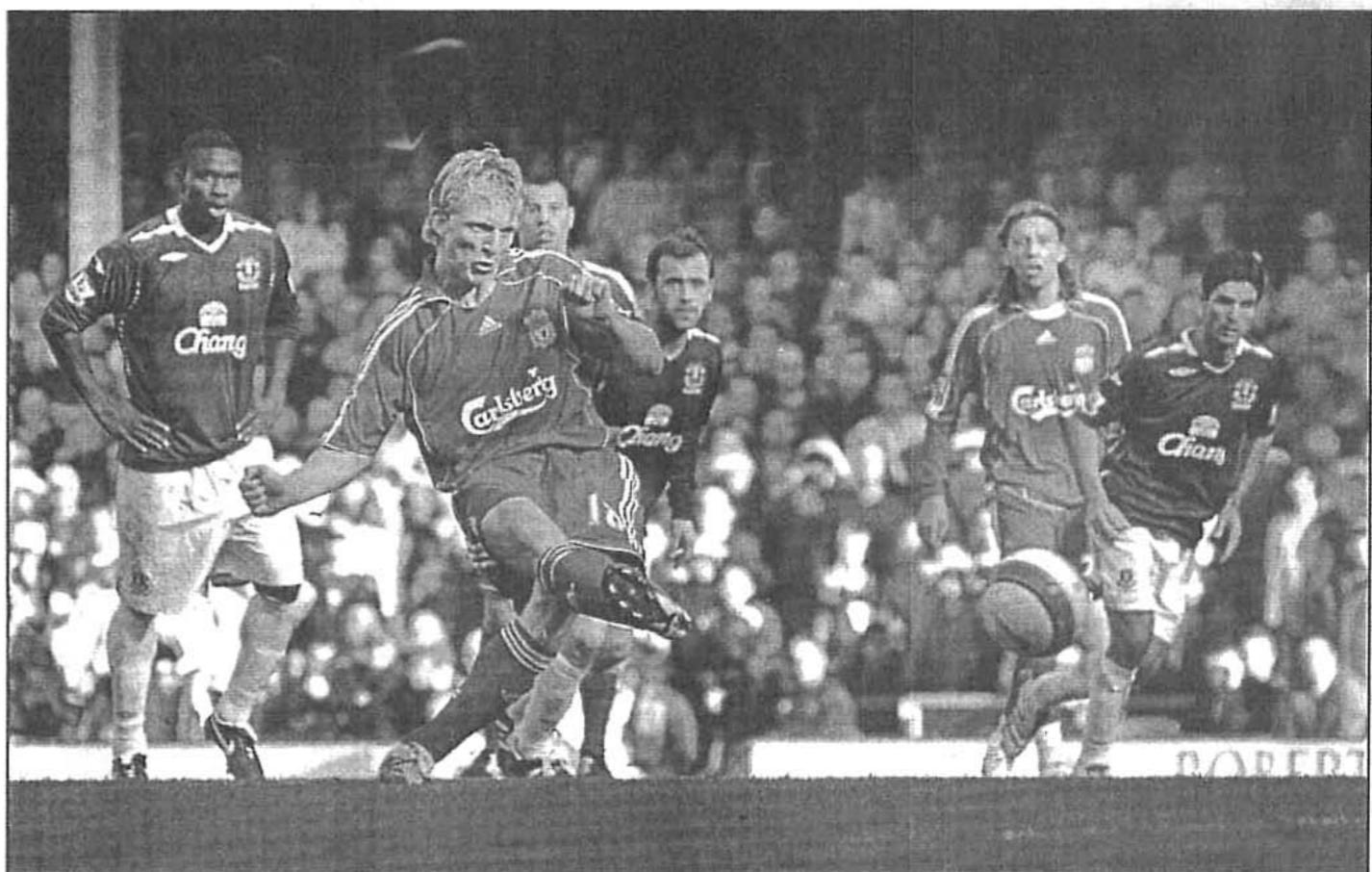


PHOTO: AFP
Liverpool striker Dirk Kuyt strokes home his second penalty at the death to give his side a dramatic win over city rivals Everton during their Premiership clash at Goodison Park on Saturday.



Former Australian wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh (2nd from L) talks to Bangladeshi captain Mohammad Ashraful (R) while spinner Mohammad Rafique (2nd from R) and cricket board's working committee vice-chairman Lt Col M Abdul Latif Khan (retd) listen during the former's visit to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

India end

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induced an inside edge just when the batsman was looking to rattle up a big score. Pathan ended up with figures of 2-34.

Left-arm spinner Murali Kartik, roped into the side at the last minute after his heroics in the last one-dayer against Australia here on Wednesday, finished wicketless while conceding 28 runs off his four overs.

Paceman Shanthakumaran Sreesanth (0-47) was even more expensive as he was flogged by the Australian batsmen all round the park.

India need to score at slightly more than eight runs an over if they are to end the series on a winning note. The Indians lost the preceding seven-match series to the visitors 4-2.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the one-off Twenty20 international between Australia and India at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist	RP Singh	12
Hayden	b Harbhajan	17
Ponting	b Pathan	76
Symonds	run out	20
Hodge	b Pathan	2
Clarke	not out	25
Haddin	not out	5
Extras: (lb-2, w-7)		9
Total: (For 5 wkt in 20 overs)		166
Did not bat: Lee, Hilfenhaus, Bracken, Clark		
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-60, 3-110, 4-116, 5-158.		
Bowler	O M R W	
RP Singh	4 0 39 1	
Sreesanth	4 0 47 0	
Pathan	4 0 34 2	
Harbhajan	4 0 17 1	
Kartik	4 0 27 0	

INDIA

Gambhir	c Ponting b Hilfenhaus	63
Sehwag	c Gilchrist b Lee	5
Uthappa	c Gilchrist b Clarke	35
Yuvraj	Singh not out	31
Dhoni	not out	9
Extras: (lb-12, w-9, nb-3)		24
Total: (For 3 wkt in 18.1 overs)		167

Did not bat: Sharma, Pathan, Kartik, Harbhajan, RP Singh, Sreesanth.

Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-102, 3-143.

Bowler

O M R W		
Lee	3.1 0 35 1	
Bracken	2 0 19 0	
Hilfenhaus	4 0 28 1	
Clark	4 0 33 0	
Symonds	3 0 26 0	
Clarke	2 0 14 1	

Result: India won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Gautam Gambhir.

Toss: Australia.

Umpires: AM Saheba and SL Shastri.

TV umpire: GA Pratapkumar.

Match referee: BC Broad (Eng-land).

Marsh presents ICC academy

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Legendary Australian wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh made a presentation of the ICC Global Cricket Academy to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) high-ups at its management office yesterday.

"It is up to the cricket board to respond to this presentation and our offers that we have put forward," said Marsh, one-time holder of the highest dismissals record as a wicketkeeper.

Marsh, director of coaching, is on a whirlwind tour of cricket nations to promote the academy which is expected to open next August on the premises of Dubai Sports City.

60-year-old Marsh, who arrived in Doha Friday evening, outlined the opportunities and facilities that are provided by the academy.

According to Marsh, there will be two international standard cricket grounds, each with a square of seven pitches, 48 outdoor net pitches which will allow proper run-ups for bowlers at both ends as well as the chance for wicketkeepers to hone their skills, six indoor pitches of varying pace with an area large enough for full-scale centre-wicket practice, state-of-the-art video analysis, medical and fitness facilities and five-star accommodation for attendees.

Wickets like those present in Australia, England and the sub-continent are going to be on offer.

"Apart from coaching and

umpiring courses, there will be employment opportunities in administrations, IT and other areas. We will advertise for these posts very soon," said Marsh, when he visited the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur along with board officials after the presentation in Gulshan.

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accommodation for attendees. Wickets like those present in Australia, England and the sub-continent are going to be on offer.

"Apart from coaching and

Yousuf propels Pakistan

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to press home Pakistan's advantage.

Earlier, Pakistan's innings was built around a patient knock by Younis who repaired the innings with Malik during their 107-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Yousuf also added 60 for the third wicket with Younis Khan (32) to repair the early loss of Kamran Akmal (nought) and Imran Nazir (two).

Yousuf hit paceman Kallis for his seventh boundary to complete his 13th one-day hundred off 129 balls.

In all, he hit nine boundaries before he was bowled by Morkel in the penultimate over.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Pakistan and South Africa at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Saturday:

PAKISTAN

Nazir c Botha b Ntini

2

Akmal b Pollock 0 De Villiers b Iftikhar 35 Younis Khan run out 32 Kempcher b Iftikhar 8 Morkel b Langeveldt 117 Pollock b Gul 56 Morkel run out 31 Botha c Tanveer b Iftikhar 9 Landeveldt c Tanveer b Gul 12 Ntini not out 9 Extras: (lb-2, nb-4, w-14) 20 Total: (All out-19.3 overs) 240 Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-4, 3-80, 4-94, 5-125, 6-140, 7-195, 8-212, 9-220.

Bowler

O M R W		
Gul	9.3 0 59 3	
Tanveer	10 0 50 1	
Iftikhar	10 1 43 3	
Afridi	10 0 41 1	
Rehman	10 1 45 1	

Result: Pakistan won by 25 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Younis.

Toss: Pakistan

Umpires: Billy Bowden (NZL) and Asad Rauf (PAK)

TV umpire: Nadeem Ghouri (PAK)

Match Referee: Alan Hurst (AUS)

Botha 9 0 59 0

Kallis 5 0 37 1

SOUTHAFRICA

Gibbs b Morkel 65

Gibbs b Morkel 0

Kallis c Botha b Ntini 0

Match Referee: Alan Hurst (AUS)

Result: India won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Gautam Gambhir.

Toss: Australia.

Umpires: AM Saheba and SL Shastri.

TV umpire: GA Pratapkumar.

Match referee: BC Broad (Eng-land).

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

Ghana happy with draw

Football

AFP, Accra

Charismatic Le Roy led Democratic Republic of Congo to the 2006 Nations Cup quarterfinals before switching to the Black Stars, whose last African title came 25 years ago in Libya.

Ghana kick off the three-week tournament with a January 20 clash in Accra against unpredictable Guinea, whose French coach Robert Nouzaret is relishing the chance to humble the hosts.

"Facing Ghana will serve as a major motivation to my players. I'm delighted that we are involved in this match because it will make for a compelling start to the tournament," predicted Nouzaret.

"Guinea, who scored 33 goals last season, had earlier claimed 'something was broken' at Chelsea following Jose Mourinho's departure and revealed he wanted to follow the Portuguese coach out of Stamford Bridge.

New boss Avram Grant refused to make any comment on Drogba's controversial remarks at the club's pre-Middlesbrough media gathering on Friday - insisting he wanted to speak with the Ivory Coast forward first.

"I am a Chelsea player and will be 100 percent committed and supportive to my manager, my teammates and the club.

"I will not be discussing my future any further until I meet privately with the club at the end of the season."

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