



PHOTO: AFP
Australia midfielder Luke Wilkshire (R) celebrates his goal with teammate Brett Emerton during their international friendly against Germany in Moenchengladbach on Tuesday.

Socceroos stun Germany

Football

AFP, Moenchengladbach

Australia took revenge for last year's heavy World Cup defeat with a shock 2-1 win over hosts Germany on Tuesday night in a friendly -- their maiden victory over the Germans.

After Germany striker Mario Gomez had put the hosts ahead, two goals in two stunning second-half minutes by Blackpool midfielder David Carney and a penalty from Dynamo Moscow's Luke Wilkshire floored the Germans.

This was Australia's first win over Germany after three straight defeats, the last of which came in Durban last June when the Germans hammered the Socceroos 4-0 in their opening game of the South African World Cup.

Germany coach Joachim Loew was punished for naming a weakened side with the most embarrassing defeat of his four-and-a-half year tenure in charge.

For Australia's German coach Holger Osieck, this was arguably his country's biggest win on a football pitch.

Each side began the match with just four survivors from those who started in Durban.

Galatasary's Harry Kewell, 32, led the Australian attack with the Socceroos captained by Turkish team-mate Lucas Neill, 33, to bring experience to the Australian side with Fulham's Mark Schwarzer, 38, in goal.

Qatar hold Russia

AFP, Doha

Russia were held to a 1-1 draw by Qatar on Tuesday in a game dubbed 'The World Cup Celebration Match' between the countries chosen to host the World Cup in 2018 and 2022 respectively.

Qatar, which surprisingly won the right to host the event despite it being held in the summer months, when temperatures in the Gulf state soar to almost unbearable levels, took the lead in the fourth minute through Mohamed Kasoula.

But 2018 hosts Russia hit back through Tottenham striker Roman Pavlyuchenko half an hour later.

The draw continued Russia's run of disappointing results after their goalless Euro 2012 qualifying draw in Armenia last week and recent friendly losses to Iran and Belgium.

Poland tackles hooliganism

AFP, London

Euro 2012 co-hosts Poland have a "huge image problem" over hooliganism but are taking appropriate action to tackle the issue, a senior UEFA official said Wednesday.

Martin Kallen, UEFA's director of Euro 2012, told the Soccerex conference in Manchester that Polish authorities were committed to stamping out hooliganism ahead of next year's finals, which are being co-hosted with Ukraine.

Football

AFP, Moenchengladbach

Everton midfielder star Tim Cahill was ruled out with a foot injury.

Loew rested several stars with Dortmund midfielder Sven Bender making his debut alongside captain Bastian Schweinsteiger of Bayern Munich who was making his 87th appearance.

Dortmund pair Mats Hummels and Marcel Schmelzer, plus Andre Schuerrle of Mainz were included in an experimental Germany side.

After a dull start from both sides, the highlight of which was an early yellow card for Australia's Mile Jedinak for a foul on Christian Traesch, the hosts took the lead when Bayern star Mario Gomez capitalised on a neat pass.

Having been set up by Schuerrle, Gomez slotted home on 26 minutes from the edge of the penalty area.

It was a subdued start from both sides with countless opportunities wasted and the game badly needed a spark.

It came with a hiss and a roar when Carney burst his way through the German defence and drove his shot past diving Germany goalkeeper Tim Wiese on 61 minutes to equalise.

Traesch fouled Kewell in the area and French referee Stephane Lannoy pointed straight to the penalty spot on 63 minutes to hush the home crowd.

Loew threw on veteran striker Miroslav Klose soon after to try and save his team's blushes, but it was too little, too late as Germany lost.

Bangladesh up against Pakistan

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will take on Pakistan in the first round of the Asian qualifiers for the 2014 FIFA World Cup after the draw was held at the AFC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday.

The first leg will be held on June 29 with Bangladesh likely visiting Pakistan while the second-leg match will take place on July 3.

The winners between Bangladesh and Pakistan will face Lebanon in a home-away basis in the second round on July 23 and 28, according to the AFC official website.

Rain ruins

FROM PAGE 16 at the same venue.

During the World Cup there was a headache with the middle order, which however yesterday rescued the side after they were reduced to 46 for three with openers Imrul Kayes (18), Shahriar Nafees (6) and uncapped Shuvagato Hom (3) returning to the dressing room inside 11 overs.

However, Rokibul Hasan and skipper Shakib Al Hasan steadied the innings to put up 73 runs before Nur Hossain broke the fourth-wicket stand, having Rokibul caught by Mehrab Hossain for 39 off 56 balls studded with three boundaries.

Shakib, however, went on to make 55 off 71 balls before edging behind the wicket off a Syed Rasel delivery. Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad chipped in with 37 and 16 as Rasel returned with four for 48.

However, Alok Kapali, who returned to the national fold for the home series after two years, could only make 11 while Mashrafe Bin Mortaza scored a 15-ball 12.

In reply, the Bangladesh A side reached eight in 2.5 overs at the cost of openers Nazimuddin and national discard Junaed Siddique as the rains descended.

Pacer Shafiqul Islam first uprooted the stumps of Nazimuddin for six in the fourth delivery of his second over and the very next ball had Junaed caught behind by Musfiqur and was on hat-trick but he was denied off a shot at the feat as the game was abandoned following the showers.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh A team captain Mohammad Ashraf missed the game due to fever.

Rajshahi made to follow-on

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka dominated with the ball against Rajshahi in the third day of the National League yesterday.

In reply to Dhaka's huge 500, Rajshahi folded cheaply in their first innings, being dismissed for only 174 runs after resuming the day at 92-3. Anisur Rahman was the top scorer with 59 off 108 in which he hammered nine boundaries. Left-arm duo, Elias Sunny and Mosharraf Hossain shone. The former took three for 34 while Mosharraf Hossain, following his brilliant century with the bat, claimed two for 32.

Dhaka enforced the follow-on, and sent in to bat again, Rajshahi improved, scoring 155 for the loss of two wickets. They still trail by 171 runs with a day left to play. Opener Myshukur Rahman looks set for back-to-back centuries after finishing the day on 89 from 142 balls. Fifty of Myshukur's runs came in boundaries in the form of 11 fours and one six. Farhad Hossain played a steady innings of 47, but fell to Elias just four

overs before the end of the days play. Farhad Reza was the other unbeaten batsman on three.

It was another seven wicket haul by Sylhet's young sensation Shaker Ahmed, which managed to give them a 39-run first innings lead against Chittagong at the BKSP.

This was the second consecutive time Shaker picked up seven wickets. In the last match against Barisal, he bagged 7-87. Shaker's magic left-arm bowling earned him seven all important wickets for just 78 runs. Only Faisal Hossain managed 53 runs, but he too fell to Shaker.

Sylhet could not capitalize and they finished the day losing six wickets for only 80 runs. Tasamul on 28 and Golam Mabud on seven were at the crease. Abdullah Al Mamun struck twice to send both Imtiaz Hossain and Golam Rahman for zero.

Meanwhile in Chittagong's Zahur Ahmed Stadium, Barisal took a slim three run lead in their first innings against Khulna after they declared on 200-9. Resuming the day on 93-5, Nasiruddin Faruque hit five boundaries

in his calm innings of 70 from 183 which helped Barisal to reach the 200 mark.

Khulna in their second innings were 92 for three with 72 of those runs coming from the bat of Robiul Islam who hit nine boundaries in his knock. Monir Hossain, Shohag Gazi and Shafaq Al Zabir claimed one wicket each.

BRIEF SCORES

DHAKA: First inns 500 all out (Sharif 147*, Mosharraf 104; Sanjamul 3-184; Shubhhashish 2-31).

RAJSHAHI: First inns 174 all out (Anisur 59, Sanjamul 24; Sunny 3-34, Mosharraf 2-32) and second inns 155-2 (Myshukur 89 n.o., Farhad 47; Mahbulul 1-16)

SYLHET: First inns 273 all out and second inns 80-6 (Tasamul 28 n.o., Rajin 11; Mamun 2-10, Kamrul 1-15)

CHITTAGONG: First inns 234 all out (Mominul 72, Karim 62; Shaker 7-78, Nabil 2-49)

KHULNA: First inns 197 all out and second inns 92-3 (Rabiul 72, Tapash 16)

BARISAL: First inns 200-9 dec. (Nasiruddin 70, Fazole 47; Nizamuddin 4-49, Bishwanath 3-48)

Carroll stakes his claim

Football

AFP, London

Andy Carroll staked his claim for a regular place in the England team as the Liverpool striker scored his first international goal in a 1-1 friendly draw with Ghana at Wembley on Tuesday.

Carroll's only previous England outing had been something of a damp squib as he was substituted after a mediocre performance in November's friendly defeat against France.

The 22-year-old has yet to score in four appearances for Liverpool after missing two months due to injury and he took distinctly short of match fitness in his last

match at Sunderland before joining up with England.

Capello felt he still wasn't fit enough to start in Saturday's 2-0 win over Wales, but he was keen to get Carroll involved against Ghana because he feels he has the ability to replace Peter Crouch as England's premier targetman.

He seized his chance with the kind of emphatic finish that has made him such a sensation in the Premier League this season.

Although Darren Bent has scored in each of his last three England appearances, Carroll has now given Capello another option to play the central role in his three-man forward line in the Euro 2012 qualifier

against Switzerland in June.

There were a few signs of rust as Carroll was let down by a woeful first touch when he tried to accelerate onto Jack Wilshere's pass down the left channel.

When he headed tamely wide from a corner midway through the half it looked like it might be a night of frustration for the burly forward, who had been well marshalled by Ghana defenders John Mensah and Isaac Vorsah.

It didn't help that he was starved of decent service from the flanks and barely had a single cross to attack before being taken off in the 59th minute.

But Carroll has never lacked for confidence or determination and he was in

the right place at the right time in the 43rd minute.

As Stewart Downing tried to cushion Ashley Young's floated pass, Carroll, perfectly positioned just off his marker, found space to lash a fine first-time finish past Richard Kingson with his left foot.

It was exactly the sort of sudden burst of brilliance that persuaded Liverpool boss Kenny Dalglish to pay a club record £35 million for Carroll on the final day of the January transfer window.

Capello is also a big fan of Carroll's, but he is well aware that the striker, who scored 11 times for Newcastle this season, has an unfortunate ability to attract the wrong type of publicity.

Carroll was bailed to live with Newcastle captain Kevin Nolan last year after appearing in court charged with assaulting an ex-girlfriend.

Carroll was also reported to have broken team-mate Steven Taylor's jaw during a training ground row last season and was fined £1,000 in October after a nightclub row.

It is hardly surprising that a player who admitted on his arrival at Liverpool that he "likes a beer or two" should find himself in a few ugly scrapes.

Capello had already responded by telling Carroll to clean up his act in a meeting last year and he used his press conference before the Ghana match to issue another warning about his drinking habits.

But if Carroll can continue to produce moments of match-winning magic like this he should stay in the headlines for the right reasons.



PHOTO: AFP
England striker Andy Carroll (L) shoots to score against Ghana during their international friendly at Wembley on Tuesday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Parliamentarian
5 Wynken and Blynken's pal
8 Talon
12 Lotion additive
13 Rushmore face
14 Portrayal
15 Catchall abbr.
16 Compete
17 Terrible guy?
18 Zaftig, perhaps
20 Take umbrage at
22 Slight touch
23 Cage component
24 Eye with desire
27 Like some suitors
32 Court
33 One (Pref.)

DOWN

11 Departed
19 41-Down's partner
21 Prior to
24 Symbol of wisdom
25 Stickum
26 Chair for a pair
28 Switch positions
29 Niacin or riboflavin
30 Poolroom prop
31 "Jeopardy!" juggernaut
36 Come out
37 Sister
38 Each
41 19-Down's partner
42 Actress Jessica
43 Swiss city
44 Snatch
46 Boring
47 Geological periods
48 Zilch
51 Pen point

34 Regret
35 Trysters' locale
38 Mideast gulf
39 Ostrich's cousin
40 iPad download
42 Missing
45 Lass
49 Lecher's look
50 Blackbird
52 Continental coin
53 Boast
54 Family
55 Family
56 Initial stake
57 Recede
58 Other-wise

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	M	I	S	G	A	S	G	A	P	S
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S	H	A	V	E	M	O	D	E	S	T
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CRYPTOQUIP

XTNO R JVWGH WE QWOKCQML
CL CO RMMNOUROQN EWV
R L TWX, C JGNLL MTRM'L
R Q R H M C K N R G U C N O Q N .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I AM CAREFULLY READING SOME LITERATURE IN LIMA, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY I'M PERU-SING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals F