



Steve Mullings (R) of Jamaica races past Tyson Gay of USA en route to winning the men's 100m at the adidas Grand Prix at Icahn Stadium in New York on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Kohlschreiber wins Halle title

REUTERS, Halle

Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber won the Halle grasscourt tournament after countryman Philipp Petzschner retired with a back problem.

In the first all-German Halle final since the Wimbledon warm-up event started 19 years ago, the pair slugged it out in an exciting first set before the 27-year-old Petzschner retired, trailing 7-6(5) 2-0.

World number 49 Kohlschreiber landed his first singles title since Auckland in 2008.

Both players dominated on their service games on the extremely fast Halle grass, making it virtually impossible for the returner to forge any break chances.

Fans on the sun-drenched centre court had to wait 11 games to see the first break point when Kohlschreiber fired a stunning return. However, he failed to convert it and the set went to the tiebreak.

Kohlschreiber, who has slipped down the rankings after a mediocre season, returned better to earn two set points, clinching it when world number 71 Petzschner sank a slice backhand into the net.

Petzschner, who won the Wimbledon doubles title last year, started feeling some back pain early in the second set, pulling out after just two games to hand the title to Kohlschreiber.

## Loew to experiment

AFP, Berlin



Germany coach Joachim Loew said Sunday he will experiment with his first-choice team to build on his side's World Cup performance as the Germans look to win the European crown for the fourth time.

With Euro 2012, to be hosted by the Ukraine and Poland, set to start in Warsaw on June 8 next year, Germany are ten-points clear at the top of their qualifying group and virtually assured a place.

Having finished third at last year's World Cup in South Africa, Loew, who took charge in 2006, says he will use next season to find the perfect combinations in the build up to next year's European championships.

"I will use the next six months to try and experiment," he told Bild on Sunday.

"Of course, there is a proven core of players, but I do think there will be a lot of movement in the national side over the next year."

Germany can complete their Euro 2012 qualification if they beat Austria in Gelsenkirchen on September 9.

The Germans also plan to play friendlies against the Ukraine, in Kiev on November 11, and Holland, in Hamburg on November 15, which Loew says he will use to test different combinations.

"I am not of the opinion that I need to know my strongest side a full six months before the European championships."

"On the contrary, I will probably use a totally different team against Holland than the one which will start Euro 2012."

"I only know that I need to have decided on my starting side four weeks before the tournament begins."

Loew has an embarrassment of riches up front in with Mario Gomez scoring at will after 28 goals in 32 league games for Bayern last season, while Miroslav Klose is closing on Gerd Mueller's all-time record of 68 goals for Germany.

Having spent much of last season on the bench at Bayern, Klose signed for Italian side Lazio last week and Loew praised the 33-year-old's decision to move, having said he wants all his players to have regular football next season.

"It would not have been easy for Miro to sit on the bench for another season," said Loew.

"Mario had a strong season at Bayern and with an eye on Euro 2012, it is important that Miroslav plays."

"It is a positive that he faces a new challenge with a new club and gets regular competitive games."

With Germany currently playing with a lone striker, Loew has not ruled out the possibility of using both forwards in tandem.

"They are the best strikers Germany has, behind them I see no real alternatives," said Loew.

"It is in my thoughts that they could even play together in the future and to play in another system."

"They are both prepared to play like that."

Loew also said he is willing to look at where new Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes plays Germany captain Philipp Lahm next season before deciding whether his skipper plays on the left or right side of defence in the national side.

"In terms of doing things differently, let me give you a very clear example. Arsenal

has all of its major commercial contracts coming up for renewal in the next couple of years.

"It's no secret that to maximise the value of those you want to have success on the field and be winning trophies."

## City ponder move for Sanchez

AFP, London

Manchester City are set to make an offer for Udinese's Chile forward Alexis Sanchez that could be worth 34 million pounds (55 million dollars), according to a report in Britain's Sunday Times.

It said City executives were due to fly out to Italy on Monday and were ready to improve an offer of 22.1 million pounds (35.8 million dollars) for the 22-year-old which has already been turned down by the Serie A side.

The paper added City might have to go as high as 34 million dollars to sign the striker.

Sanchez impressed at last year's World Cup and followed up by scoring 12 league goals as Udinese qualified for the Champions League.

City won this season's English FA Cup -- their first major trophy in 35 years -- and finished third in the lucrative Premier League, both achievements coming under the guidance of Italian manager Roberto Mancini.

## Usmanov blasts Arsenal board

Football

AFP, London

Uzbek billionaire Alisher Usmanov has slammed the Arsenal board for the Premier League club's failure to win a major trophy in any of the past six seasons.

Usmanov, 57, who is not a Gunners director despite owning 30 percent of the club's parent company, said too many board members were blinded by their own self-interest and said he did not wish to serve on such a board.

"If the role of a board member is to oversee a trophyless period, while making significant personal profits and asking fans to pay inflation-busting ticket price increases then, no, I would not want to be on the board," Usmanov told the News of the World. "If instead it is to try to deliver sustained success, to increase your personal investment in the club, to help develop the commercial position and to ensure the fans have a say in the running of the club then, yes, I think I certainly have something to contribute."

"In terms of doing things differently, let me give you a very clear example. Arsenal has all of its major commercial contracts coming up for renewal in the next couple of years.

"It's no secret that to maximise the value of those you want to have success on the field and be winning trophies."

"To do that you need to invest now in building a winning team. This is simple commercial logic. Whether it comes to pass, we shall see."

Arsenal suffered a dramatic slump following their English League Cup final defeat by Birmingham in February, with their bids for the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League all declining after that defeat.

Usmanov urged Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger to give the funds to bring in experienced players in key positions to bolster the Gunners' crop of promising young talents.

"There is a widely-held view among most commentators -- and one that I agree with -- that the club needs to stiffen the defensive spine of the team, with a dominant keeper, strong centre-halves and a powerful defensive midfielder in the mould of Claude Makelele," he said.

"The Premier League is one of the most competitive in the world and whilst we have consistently challenged for honours, the club needs to develop talent and buy top-class players to win the trophies we all crave."

"This requires greater investment which, I believe, has been lacking thus far."

"What, however, is not clear is whether the board shares this view. For too long they have seemed happy to sanction second, third and fourth as being acceptable, whilst at the same time they are planning to sell their shares."

## Panama shock USA

Football

AFP, Tampa, Florida

Panama ended the United States' 26-game unbeaten run in group play at the Gold Cup on Saturday, downing the US 2-1 to book a quarterfinal berth in the regional football championship.

Luis Tejada scored in the 19th minute and Gabriel Gomez converted a penalty in the 36th for Panama, who posted their first victory in nine meetings with a US side that had never lost a match in the group stage of any Gold Cup.

Clarence Goodson pulled a goal back for the Americans in the 67th minute. But at the end of the night, Panama topped Group C with six points followed by the United States and Canada both on three.

The United States can still reach the knockout stage, with the top two teams from each of the three groups assured of quarterfinal spots.

In the day's other Group C encounter, Dwayne De Rosario's penalty in the 51st minute gave Canada a 1-0 victory over 10-man Guadeloupe.

De Rosario beat goalkeeper Franck Granel after Stephane Zubair brought down Ali Gerba in the penalty area.

Guadeloupe had been a man down since the fourth minute, when Jean-Luc Lamourde received a red card for his tackle on Canada's Will Johnson.

Group C action will conclude in Kansas

City on Tuesday, when the United States will face Guadeloupe and Canada play Panama.

With the victory over Guadeloupe, Canada also preserved their hopes of advancing. In addition to the top two from each group, the two best third-placed teams go through.

The tournament to crown the North and Central America and Caribbean region champion continues on Sunday when Group A pool play concludes in Chicago.

Mexico, already assured of a quarterfinals berth despite a drugs bust-up, will face Costa Rica while El Salvador takes on Cuba. Mexico lead the group with six points to Costa Rica's four.

Mexico, the reigning Gold Cup champions, were left with 17 players after goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, defenders Francisco Rodriguez and Edgar Duenas, and midfielders Christian Bermudez and Antonio Naelson "Sinha" were removed from the team Thursday by Mexican football authorities after testing positive for clenbuterol.

The Mexican federation has blamed the positive tests at a pre-tournament training camp near Mexico City on tainted meat and asked to replace the players.

CONCACAF officials have said they need more information before they decide.

"It's a very unfortunate situation, but we need to look forward," Mexico star Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez said Saturday after his team trained at Chicago's Soldier Field. "Right now, the most important thing is Costa Rica."

The Gold Cup winners secure a berth in the 2013 FIFA Confederations Cup.



Juan Agudelo (L) of USA and Felipe Baloy Ramirez (C) of Panama fight for the ball during their CONCACAF Gold Cup match at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida on Saturday.

## SPORTS POLL

### WEEKLY QUESTION

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