

Uruguay beats Iran in U-17 World Cup

It was all Uruguay in the early going, with the talented South Americans prancing into their stride. Gonzalo Barreto was looking lively and carved out an opening after eight minutes, weaving his way into the Iranian penalty area. Iman Sadeghi had no trouble with the tame near-post shot though, and pushed it away for a corner-kick.

The Danubio man had an even better chance on the quarter-hour when he broke into the right side of the area, only to blast his effort wildly over the bar. Four minutes later, Atletico Madrid darling Gallegos somehow conspired to knuckle his 18-yarder well wide of the goal when he really should have tested the keeper.

The Iranians, with captain Payam Sadeghi-

an restored after sitting out their win over the Dutch, were creating precious little in attack. Morteza Pouraliganjis hopeful dig from long range after 25 minutes hardly had Uruguay net-minder Salvador Ichazo worried. Normal service was resumed in short order with the South Americans applying all the pressure up the other end. However, they couldn't turn their attacking dominance into goals and the half ended scoreless.

The Iranians looked a little livelier as the second half got underway, with their foraging captain Sadeghi leading the charge forward. The Zob-Ahan striker had a great chance to open the scoring after bursting into the box in the 57th minute, but he pulled his shot wide of



the post. The Asian champions then enjoyed a short spell in which they put on all the pressure in their third game of these finals in Calabar.

Neither side were able to tip the balance as the 90th minute came and went, and the game went to extra-time. Both Iran and Uruguay had chances to score in the first period, but - as in the preceding minutes - neither could find their final touch. Iran coach Ali Doustimehr brought on lively midfielder Afshin Esmail mid-way through, hoping the new man could add the missing spark.

The move had the opposite effect, destabilising the Iranian side and shortly after the injection Uruguay were into the lead with an ugly goal to suit the nature of the contest. Gallegos, with seemingly nowhere to go in the penalty

area, turned and fired a low shot that took an almighty deflection and slipped underneath the despairing Sadeghi and bobbed into the net in the 104th minute. It was the first goal that the Iranians conceded at these finals. It wasn't the last, however, as Gallegos added a second in the 117th minute when he lobbed the goalkeeper brilliantly.

Amazingly, Iran pulled a goal back to make it 2-1 with just seconds to go, Esmail hitting from distance to cut the deficit in half. Unfortunately for the Asians, it was the end of the scoring. Uruguay now move on to meet Spain - who made mince-meat of Burkina Faso - in their quarter-final, while Iran head for home at the first knockout hurdle.

(Source: Fifa.com)



Agassi asks for compassion for drug use

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Andre Agassi, mired in controversy after admitting to using crystal meth, pleaded for compassion from his critics in a television interview that will be broadcast on Sunday in the United States.

During the 60 Minutes interview, excerpts of which were made public on Thursday, Agassi discussed his explosive autobiography "Open" in which he admitted to using the recreational drug and his battles with depression.

At one point, the former world number one becomes emotional after being asked to respond to criticism from Martina Navratilova, who compared him to baseball pitcher Roger Clemens, who is battling doping allegations.

"Yeah it's what you don't want to hear," Agassi told interviewer Katie Couric. "I would hope along with that would come some compassion that maybe this person doesn't need condemnation. Maybe this person could stand a little help."

"Because that was at a time in my life when I needed help."

In the book Agassi candidly describes being introduced to the drug in 1997 and the moment when he was informed he had failed a drugs test. He later lied to men's governing body the ATP about his use and escaped a ban.

Despite the bitter backlash, Agassi said he has no regrets about disclosing his drug use, even if it eventually ends up costing him a place in the Tennis Hall of Fame.

"I don't know what the ramifications are. I had way more to lose by telling this story in its full transparency than I had to gain," Agassi told Couric.

"The price that that comes with is the cost that I've assumed and I'm okay because the part that I worry and think more about is who this may help."

(Source: Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF



Ferguson ready for Chelsea



Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson insists his side will put up a better show against Chelsea than they did at Liverpool.

United lost 2-0 at Anfield last month but now as the top-two prepare to clash at Stamford Bridge on Sunday,

Ferguson insists his players will be prepared.

Ferguson feels his team will handle the big clash better this time around.

"It's always hard at Chelsea but we'll deal with it better than we did at Anfield," said Ferguson. It was difficult at Anfield. You have to have a winning mentality and it was missing at Liverpool.

"Players are human so that can happen."

(Source: AFP)

Renault decision 'by end of year'



Renault has said it will make a decision on whether to follow Toyota's lead and withdraw from Formula One by the end of the year.

Hours later, Renault appeared to be facing the same fate as the French manufacturer called an extraordinary board meeting to discuss its future plans. With fallout from the recent Singapore race-fixing scandal - for which its team was handed a two-year suspended ban - to consider as well as the economic downturn, many are predicting Renault will be the next team to walk away.

(Source: AP)

Norman to miss Australian Open



Greg Norman has withdrawn from next month's Australian Open after failing to recover from shoulder surgery as quickly as hoped.

The 54-year-old has also been forced to pull out of his own tournament, the Shark Shootout in Florida, because of his fitness problems. The two-time Open champion was expected to be one of the leading draws for the Australian Open which takes place at the NSW Golf Club in Sydney from December 3-6.

(Source: Skysports)

Federer sails past Seppi



Home favourite Roger Federer powered into the quarter-finals of the Swiss Indoors with a routine 6-3 6-3 victory over Andreas Seppi.

The three-time defending champion has now gone six matches against the 51st-ranked Italian without dropping a set. Joining Federer in the last eight is fifth-seeded Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic, a 3-6 7-6 (7-1) 7-6 (7-1) victor over France's Florent Serra.

(Source: AP)

Poland beats Iran at Club World Volleyball



Peykan was defeated 3-0 in their second match of the event at the Aspire Zone indoor hall on Wednesday night.

PGE Skra Belchatow of Poland has defeated Iran's Peykan at the 2009 FIVB Men's Club World Volley-

ball Championship in Doha, Qatar.

Peykan beat the South American volleyball champions Brazil's Cimed 3-1 in their opening game on Tuesday night.

The Iranian side is scheduled to meet Qatar's Al Arabi in their third game of the event, which will be held from November 3 to 8. This is the first time an Iranian club has clinched a berth in the FIVB Men's Club World Volleyball Championship.

The tournament includes two groups of four teams. Pool A comprises the European champions League Champions, Trentino Betclit, the 1st placed European team in CEV ranking Zenit Kazan, the Norceca representatives, Plataneros de Corozal of Puerto Rico and the African champions Zamalek.

(Source: FNA)

Persepolis defeats Aboumoslem 2-1



Persepolis won a 2-1 victory over Aboumoslem to move to the fourth place in the Iranian Premier League (IPL).

The Reds' captain, Karim Baqeri, scored the opener on Alireza Mohammad's cross after 35 minutes.

The 36-year-old Baqeri, however, headed in the winner in the 55th minute to get the maximum three points for the hosts. 25,000 spectators attended the game at Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Thursday evening.

The visitors, coached by Farhad Kazemi, then netted the equalizer through Davoud Daneshdoust just before half time, press tv reported.

"We couldn't have won the game without Karim Baqeri," said Persepolis coach, Zlatko Kranjcar.

The victory moved Persepolis to fourth place in the table with 26 points. Sepahan leads the standings on 31 points followed by Esteghlal with 27.

(Source: FNA)

Ferrari blasts FIA

Ferrari has strongly criticised motorsport's governing body, the FIA, as French manufacturer Renault discusses its future in Formula One.

The Italian team, the oldest in the sport, has hit out against what it sees as a perceived bias against manufacturers under the leadership of former FIA president Max Mosley.

Bosses at Maranello fear Renault will go the same way as other teams such as Toyota, who quit the sport on Wednesday.

Honda and BMW have already pulled out of F1, while Bridgestone will no longer be official tyre supplier to F1 when its current contract runs out at the end of next season.

In a statement released on its website, Ferrari compared the sport to the Agatha Christie detective novel 'Ten Little Indians' in which the murderer is not exposed until after the other characters have been killed off.

The statement read: "It could be seen as a parody of 'Ten Little Indians,' the detective novel by Agatha Christie, first published in England back in 1939, but the reality is much more serious.

Leaving

"Formula 1 continues to lose major players: in the past twelve months, Honda, BMW, Bridgestone and, only this morn-



ing, Toyota, have announced they are leaving the sport.

"In exchange, so to speak, we will now have, Manor, Lotus (at least in name only, as this incarnation has little to do with the team that gave us Colin Chapman, Jim Clark and Ayrton Senna to name but a few,) USF1 and Campos Meta."

Ferrari goes on to claim that the new teams are no substitute for the major manufacturers leaving the sport.

The statement goes on: "Can we claim that it's a case of like for like, just because the numbers sitting around the table are the same? Hardly and we must also wait and see just how many of them will really be there on the grid for the first race of next season in Bahrain and how many will still be there at the end of 2010.

"The reality is that this gradual defection from the F1 fold has more to do with a war waged against the major car manufacturers by those who managed Formula 1 over the past few years, than the result of any economic crisis.

"In Christie's work of fiction, the guilty party was only uncovered when all the other characters died, one after the other. Do we want to wait for this to happen or do we want to pen a different ending to the book on Formula 1?"

(Source: Skysports)

Rose guides Bulls to tight win over Cavaliers

CLEVELAND, Ohio (Reuters) — Derrick Rose scored 10 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter and drilled a decisive jumper with 1:44 remaining to help the Chicago Bulls beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 86-85 on Thursday.

Last season's Rookie of the Year, Rose added 11 assists as the Bulls (3-2) held off the Cavaliers with an inspired defensive effort.

"It's huge," Rose told reporters. "Our chemistry on offense really isn't there yet. But you have time for that -- if you can continue to stop people you'll be fine."

League MVP LeBron James scored 25 points for the Cavaliers, but lost the ball while driving to the basket for a potential game-winning shot in the final seconds.

The Cavaliers (3-3), who had a 40-2 regular-season record at home last season, have lost twice already this season in Cleveland.

In a tightly contested game, the Cavaliers had possession as they trailed by a point with four seconds to go but James drove to his left and the ball slipped out of his hands as prepared to shoot.

Kuszczyk

accuses

Van der Sar

Manchester United goalkeeper Tomasz Kuszczyk claims No.1 Edwin van der Sar is of little help to him.

The Pole, in his fourth season at Old Trafford, says that he often asks the 39-year-old Dutchman for advice and help.

But, he feels that van der Sar does not pass on advice as he would like.

"To be honest, I must say this and Edwin doesn't like this too much for sure, but he doesn't help me too much," he told MUTV, according to The Times.

"I have told him a few times already to give me some more advice because he's got more experience and got many more games under his belt.

"I say, 'You have to give me something more because I like to know what I do wrong and like to watch other people. Doing that I can take some good from the advice I get.' "But I don't know, maybe Edwin doesn't like me. You'll have to ask him."

The 27-year-old admits that he finds it hard not playing regular first-team football. "I've already waited three-and-a-half years," he said.

"I will wait longer but my ambition is so big and I want to have a nice feeling after games, be tired and go home and think, 'Oh, you did a good job.'"

(Source: The Times)