

Pakistan's women – grand debut despite results

Women's football in Pakistan is booming, even though the newly formed women's national team performed well below expectations during its first appearance on the international stage.

BY RAINER HENNIES

Despite being thrashed in their debut tournament, the Pakistan women had fun on their first international appearance.

PHOTOS: RAINER HENNIES



"It's only just begun"

If women's football is to take root in the country and the national team is to score goals instead of conceding them, the Pakistani players will need to rely on staunch support. Women's football head Robina Irfan is in no doubt about that. "We are truly indebted to the AFC and FIFA for their stalwart support of the PFF. The partnership helps us especially to develop girls' football in country areas and schools and undertake the promotional work that lies ahead of us. Sport is crucial to character building for girls and women."

Irfan freely discusses issues such as health, education, women and society in politics. The member of parliament from Quetta became heavily involved in football through her family and she is now a staunch fan. All of her three daughters, Shaleila (9), Raheila (12) and Suheila (13), play football. Shaleila received a special prize as the tournament's youngest player in the first national league championship.

The original field of eight teams has since grown to sixteen. "They come from all corners of the country, of course. But we still face huge obstacles," comments Robina Irfan. Her words refer not only to religion but also to the differences in climate in the various regions. "It's going to be very difficult to set up a national league championship. They have long winter holidays in the northern provinces and everything comes to a standstill. That means we have to start all over again."

But Irfan is taking everything in her stride. "We intend to promote 11-a-side football because this is by far the most popular form. Futsal is only a stepping stone on the way." There are plans afoot to organise a kick-off tournament in Qatar in February 2006, with schemes to form a national team already in the pipeline. Kuwait is harbouring similar dreams, whereas Bangladesh has more or less already agreed to take part. And all the while, the FIFA Development Office in Colombo, Sri Lanka, keeps sending out new incentives and ideas.

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The incident has long been resolved and Asra Matloob and Sheka Nazeer have become friends again. Both of them play for the Pakistani national team that made its international debut in May.

But in September 2005 it was quite a different story. Asra had saved a penalty taken by Sheka Nazeer, who then followed it up by knocking in the rebound, inflicting injury on Asra in the process. So it was not the WAPDA team from Punjab who became the first Pakistani women's league champions but Punjab Province. A local derby, packed with emotion, decided the championship title, with even fists flying in the dramatic finale at the Jinnah sports complex.

Male spectators were strictly prohibited. Although the competition

was staged according to FIFA rules, Islamic law held sway. The athletes' sports gear was strictly Muslim, with hardly an inch of skin in sight. Because the tournament constituted a minor revolution in itself, approved by the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) and its president, Faisal Saleh Hayat, no less, the general consensus was that traditionalists should not be given any additional grounds for complaint.

2ND COMPETITION IN THE PIPELINE

Women's teams have been forming throughout the country ever since the beginning of the year. WAPDA, Sindh, Karachi FSE, Islamabad, Beluchistan Province, NWFP Province and Azad Kashmir all turned up to test their credentials at national level. As if that

was not enough, a second competition in the series has already been fixed for this autumn.

With the active encouragement of FIFA, which insists that ten per cent of its financial support to associations be invested specifically in women's football, the PFF has taken to the notion of women's football with enthusiasm, investing 250,000 USD in its future. Another milestone was reached when Pakistan took part in Amman club's third international futsal championship in May, thanks to FIFA's contacts and financial support. In fact, FIFA also paid the travel costs of a team from Afghanistan that did not go all the way to the Jordanian capital in the end.

The Pakistani team was assembled from a pool of 49 young women who had

been training under coach Tariq Lutfi since April. A member of parliament and an active feminist, Robina Irfan was appointed team manager and chairman of the Pakistan association's women's committee. Ms Irfan travelled to the women's football conference for Islamic countries in Doha (Qatar) in March this year to forge international links. Furthermore, in April, she attended the fourth Islamic Women's Symposium in Tehran (Iran) where she was appointed to its medical committee.

The eleven players and four officials who set off for Jordan in May were ceremoniously sent on their way by the PFF president. Their mission was to represent their country with flying colours. "The PFF can rely one hundred per cent on support from FIFA and the

AFC in its efforts to promote women's football. You will be richly rewarded if you reach the final," promised PFF chief Faisal Saleh Hayat.

THRASHED

But the scorelines after a series of games of two 20-minute halves saw their dreams sorely dashed – 15-0 against Abu Dhabi Club from the United Arab Emirates, 21-0 against Al Shabab from Amman, Jordan, 14-1 against ARZ Beirut, Lebanon and 11-0 against the Damascus Students from Syria. The Pakistani players were simply too inexperienced to achieve any laudable results. But at least they scored one goal and played fairly. "Who's pleased with such results? Of course I'm disappointed. But it doesn't help to get annoyed about

it," commented Asra Matloob. Her friend, Farzana Mir, who keeps goal for Pakistan's national handball team, added: "We simply have to accept it because we can't change it." But the team won other plaudits after its first foray abroad. Robina Irfan glowed with pride at the Fair Play Trophy presented to the team by the General Secretary of the Jordan Football Association, Fadi Zuriekat. "It's a great honour and positive recognition for our sporting attitude despite the results. Next year we'll be much stronger." ■

World-beater or back to the training ground?

Do you think you know your football? If so, test your knowledge with our world football quiz. How many of the 20 questions can you get right? The correct answers can be found on page 59.

19-20 correct answers: world-beater!

18 correct answers: Professor of World Football

17 correct answers: World Cup title in sight

16 correct answers: superstar

15 correct answers: continental champion

14 correct answers: model pro

13 correct answers: battler

12 correct answers: on the brink of the national team

11 correct answers: club stalwart

10 correct answers: back to the training ground

9 correct answers or less: keep reading FIFA magazine and www.FIFA.com

1. Which former German international currently plays for Chinese team Shanghai Shenhua?

A: Carsten Jancker
B: Mehmet Scholl
C: Mario Basler

2. Which club are the current champions of Brazil?

A: Corinthians
B: Flamengo
C: Gremio

3. When was the first ever FIFA World Youth Championship held?

A: 1975 in France
B: 1977 in Tunisia
C: 1983 in Mexico

4. For which Turkish side did Nigerian striker Daniel Amokachi play from 1997 to 2000?

A: Trabzonspor
B: Galatasaray
C: Besiktas

5. How many teams has the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided to allow in the Women's Olympic Football Tournament Beijing 2008?

A: Eight
B: Ten
C: Twelve

6. From which country is AC Milan defender Kakha Kaladze?

A: Georgia
B: Ukraine
C: Belarus



Josef Venglos, Marius Lacatus and Rabah Madjer.

PHOTOS: IMAGO

7. Allan Simonsen was one of the best strikers in Denmark's history. How many of his 59 international caps were World Cup matches?

A: Seven
B: Five
C: One

8. From which country does 2006 World Cup final referee Horacio Elizondo hail?

A: Mexico
B: Argentina
C: Honduras

9. Who led the US national team to the 1998 World Cup in France before being succeeded by Bruce Arena?

A: Steve Sampson
B: George Graham
C: Bora Milutinovic

10. Whom did Trinidad and Tobago beat in their play-off for a place at the 2006 World Cup?

A: Qatar
B: Jordan
C: Bahrain

11. Who was the first non-British coach in English club football?

A: Arsene Wenger (Arsenal)
B: Josef Venglos (Aston Villa)
C: Gerard Houllier (Liverpool)

12. After which former Austrian international was the Prater Stadium in Vienna named?

A: Ernst Happel
B: Herbert Prohaska
C: Bruno Pezzey

13. What was the name of the ball that adidas developed for the 1978 World Cup in Argentina?

A: Telstar
B: Tango
C: Pampa

14. Which former international striker is not currently a club president?

A: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Bayern Munich)
B: Jean-Pierre Papin (Strasbourg)
C: Marius Lacatus (Steaua Bucharest)

15. On which island was Cameroon legend Roger Milla playing when he received the call-up to his country's 1990 World Cup squad that led to his scoring four goals?

A: Martinique
B: La Reunion
C: Madagascar

16. Who are the reigning world beach soccer champions?

A: Portugal
B: France
C: Spain

17. From which country is Rabah Madjer, the scorer of a famous backheel in Porto's victory over Bayern Munich in the 1987 European Cup Final?

A: Algeria
B: Morocco
C: Tunisia

18. What was the name of the first FIFA President?

A: Jules Rimet
B: Robert Guerin
C: Daniel Burley Woolfall

19. Who was top scorer at EURO 2004?

A: Angelos Charisteas (Greece)
B: Milan Baros (Czech Republic)
C: Ruud van Nistelrooy (Netherlands)

20. Which animal features on Valencia's club crest?

A: Eagle
B: Lion
C: Bat



Two brilliant strikers: Allan Simonsen (left) and Daniel Amokachi.

20 QUESTIONS
20 ANSWERS
Hernan Crespo

1. What does football mean to you?

It's been a passion of mine ever since I was a boy. Although now I treat it as a job and I'm very professional, it's the only way of staying at the top.

2. Which club did you support as a child?

San Lorenzo because it was the team my Dad supported. I started going to matches when I was very young.

3. Did you ever have an idol?

When I was a boy, I admired Marco van Basten a lot. I used to watch him because I liked scoring goals too. And obviously Maradona, the idol of every Argentinian.

4. What is your fondest footballing memory?

The two goals I put past Oscar Cordoba in the 1996 Copa Libertadores final, the night we were crowned champions at the Monumental [home of River Plate]. It was also my last game for River.

5. What has been your biggest disappointment in football?

The 2002 World Cup. I had scored goals in the qualifying matches and I was expecting to play more. I was really hopeful, but in the end I only got a few minutes.

6. If you had not become a professional footballer, what would you have become?

I don't know. Ever since I first got into the game as a boy, I knew I was going to be a footballer. I finished secondary school to avoid doing anything by halves, but I knew I would be a footballer.

7. What is your favourite type of music?

Argentinian rock music. *Los Redonditos de Ricota* and *Los Ratones Paranoicos*, among others.

8. And your favourite book?

I have to say I don't read much.

Name: Hernan Jorge Crespo

Born: 5 July 1975 in Florida (Argentina)

Nationality: Argentinian

Height: 1.84 m

Weight: 78 kg

Position: striker

Clubs: 1993-1996: River Plate (Argentina), 1997-2000: Parma (Italy), 2000-2002: Lazio (Italy), 2002-2003: Inter Milan (Italy), 2003-2004: Chelsea (England), 2004-2005: AC Milan (Italy), 2005-2006: Chelsea, since 2006: Inter Milan.

9. Your favourite film?

Nueve Reinas, an Argentinian film that came out in 2000.

10. Which is your favourite town?

I love Rome because of its history and the climate, which isn't so cold in winter.

11. What is your favourite food?

Barbecued meat, like all Argentinians. Wherever I am, I always have my barbecue with me.

12. And your favourite hobby?

Family life with my wife, Alessia, and my two daughters, Nicole (who turns two in October) and Sofia (who was born at the beginning of July).

13. What do you spend most of your money on?

Presents for my loved ones and travel so that they can come and visit me.

14. What was your first job?

Playing for River Plate, when I was awarded my first contract aged 18. I had been there since I was 6.

15. Who has been the most influential figure in world history?

I can't think of any names off the top of my head.

Honours: Top scorer in the Argentinian Clausura championship (1994), top scorer in the Olympic Football Tournament Atlanta (1996), top scorer in the Italian league (2001), Argentinian league champion (1994 and 1995), Copa Libertadores winner (1996), silver medallist in the Olympic Football Tournament Atlanta (1996), UEFA Cup winner (1999), Italian super cup winner (1999, 2001 and 2005), Italian cup winner (1999 and 2000), English Community Shield winner (2005), English Premier League champion (2006). 59 caps for Argentina, 32 goals.

As at 13 August 2006

16. What are you scared of?

My loved ones ever having health problems or being in need.

17. What was the most embarrassing moment in your life?

In football, my first six months at Parma: I was new and I got injured, there was a lot of uncertainty.

18. How do you see the future of the world?

It's going to be difficult, but when you have children you are always optimistic.

19. Where would you like to go on holiday?

To the beaches on the Sardinian coast, which are spectacular. The whole island is impressive.

20. Whom would you most like to meet?

A few years ago I wanted to meet the Pope and was lucky enough to do so when I was at Lazio. That Pope was really special.



PHOTO: IMAGO

YES OR NO?

Are you a patient person? Yes

Are you superstitious? No

Are you happy with your salary? Yes

Is Ronaldinho the world's best footballer at present? Among others

Is the quality of football better today than 20 years ago? Can't compare them

Would you like to coach one day? No

From the pitch to the **pulpit**

Taribo West represented Nigeria in two World Cup final competitions and two African Cup of Nations finals as well as a number of other top tournaments. While looking to get married for a second time, he is currently devoting himself to two causes – charity work and evangelism.

BY ADEMOLA OLAJIRE

I am thoroughly enjoying life away from the football pitch,” the hard-as-nails centre back said as we settled down to talk about his new occupation somewhere in the Nigeria capital, Abuja, in mid-July. He was very relaxed, very fresh and very jovial. In his playing days, the first two qualities were rare features of his make-up, although ex-team mates confess he always had a quick wit.

“Now, I am concentrating on charity work and my church work. They keep me busy. But I also get busy doing business with a number of people, as I have business partners all over the globe. I am also into property management, most of the property being my own, and I follow football on the TV and internet.”

Moreover, West still gets offers to play professionally. “The fire is no longer there, but the offers still come. I am not interested. I believe I have done enough on the soccer pitch and as you guys say, it is better to leave when the ovation is loudest.”

Born Taribo Christopher Tom-West in Nigeria’s oil-rich Rivers State in the turbulent Niger Delta, the former defender began his career at Ibukun-Oluwa FC of Ijebu-Ode in south-west Nigeria and then moved to his hometown club Sharks before playing for

Enugu Rangers in the east and Julius Berger in the west.

A CHURCH IN MILAN

In the early part of his playing days, Taribo West had a reputation as a no-nonsense, mean and unsophisticated stopper, but after spending years with the famous Guy Roux at Auxerre in France, he learnt sophistication, effective marking and guile. He also earned far fewer red cards.

Those are days gone now. Today, West is the quintessential gentleman, preaching softly to ‘lost souls’ and other brethren to embrace God and make Heaven. It is his passion.

He has a church in Milan, the Italian city where he spent four years playing for both city rivals, AC Milan and Inter. The name of the church? Shelter in the Storm.

“It is a refuge centre for lost souls,” West explains. “I believe that God has a refuge for everyone in distress. Whatever your situation, God has a solution for you, and you only need to come close to Him.”

As he spends most of his time away in Lagos and Abuja, how does he run the church in Italy, five-and-half hours away by air? “I have children of God who ‘grew up’ with me in that church, and every week, I simply call them and

appoint one of them to take charge of the week’s activities. I tell them what to do, the instructions to follow and the steps to take, and they do it. They don’t really miss me much.”

West is now planning to set up a chapter of the church in the Nigerian capital. “Abuja looks a nice place. I have already done a number of ministration services here and I enjoyed myself.”

His other work is in the area of charity, and he has big plans. “I am bringing Ronaldo, Patrick Vieira, Dennis Bergkamp, Clarence Seedorf and George Weah to Nigeria for a charity match. It is going to be big.

“Everything is in motion, and all I am waiting for is final approval. It is going to provide hope for youngsters in the Niger Delta, and for all the crises that sprout from that area. It’s going to be called the ‘Taribo West and Friends Classic’. I am looking forward to it with a lot of excitement.”

Even during his playing days, West was renowned for his love for charity work. That was the basis of his friendship with Weah, who also played for AC Milan and is regarded as the most popular African to have played in Europe. “Weah is a pleasant person. He did so much for his country and the poor,” recalls West.

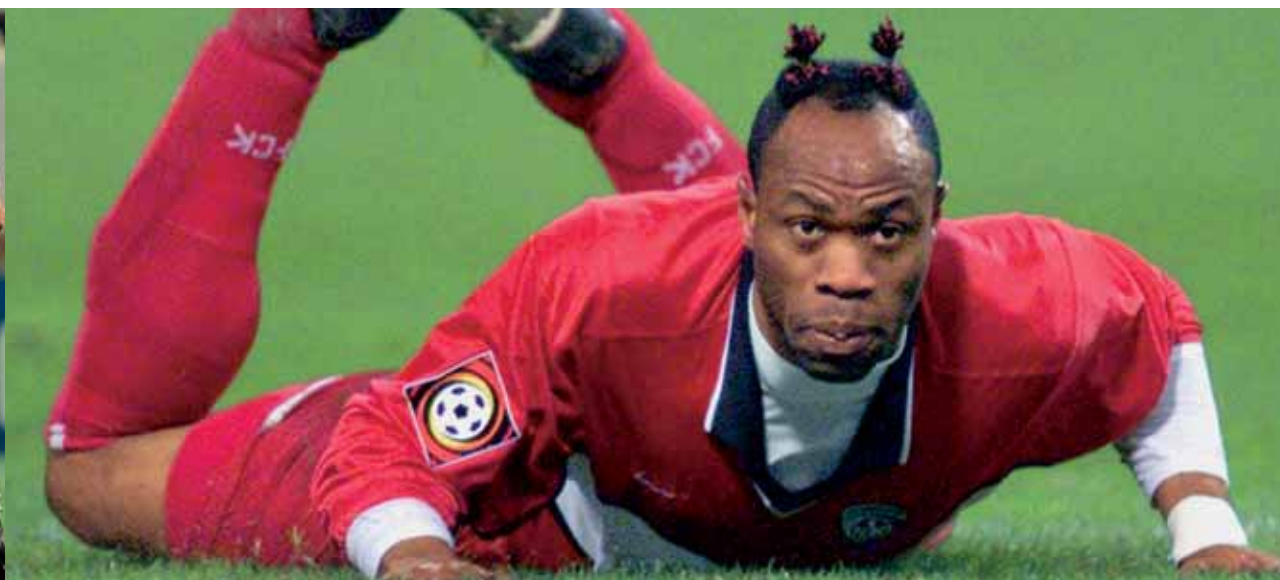
Weah grew up in poverty, just like West, but it did not stop him from rising to the pinnacle of the game. He, like West, never hesitates to give back to society. He played an instrumental role in Liberia’s qualification for the African Cup of Nations in 1996 and 2002 – the only two times they have played in the finals. Last year, Weah finished a close second in the Liberian presidential election.

West’s childhood was also an underprivileged one. He hawked bananas on the streets of Port Harcourt (the capital of Rivers State) and he was a member of a group of bandits in Lagos until one of them was killed.

TEAMING UP WITH KANU

Before later going on to play in two World Cup final competitions and two African Cup of Nations finals, he appeared in the African U-20 Championship in Mauritius and won Olympic gold with Nigeria’s U-23 team in Atlanta, USA, in 1996.

“It was a dream come true,” he says of the historic Olympic football gold. It was the first time Africa had won the football gold, and the team was captained by Nwankwo Kanu, who made his Nigeria senior debut on the



Famous for his football artistry and unconventional hairstyles: Taribo West with Ronaldo at Inter Milan, playing for Kaiserslautern and arriving in Qatar.

PHOTOS: IMAGO (3), AFP

WE ALL SPEAK FOOTBALL.
**OPPONENTS.
 NOT ENEMIES.**



► same day as West: against Sweden in a friendly international in Malmo ahead of the 1994 World Cup. Nevertheless, both missed the cut for the tournament in America.

“But we both went on to play in two World Cups (1998 and 2002). I am sad that we as a nation could not build on the Olympic gold. Poor management robbed us of more triumphs,” contended West.

In 2000, West made a belated appearance in the African Cup of Nations, as Nigeria boycotted the 1996 finals and were then banned from the 1998 tournament. The Super Eagles finished runners-up, beaten on home soil by Cameroon. Two years later, West helped the team to third place in Mali.

While he has very few regrets, many of them concern the Nigerian national

team. “I didn’t bring up somebody to take my place in the Super Eagles, and we didn’t lay a foundation within the team to speak with one voice. If we had done that, the likes of Sunday Oliseh, Tijani Babangida, Finidi George and myself would not have been chucked out of the team as we were – unceremoniously.”

Going back to the present, he adds: “God Himself decides for a man. I believe God took me all the way round the world so I could see what people experience in other parts to make me able to realise His Grace and His Glory. I’m grateful to Him for His kindness and favour. Whenever a man is born, he is born for a purpose designed by God. Greatness is never derived from what you know, but from His inspiration and the energy that He gives you, and His motivating power.”

West really travelled the world. He played in seven countries, from Nigeria to France, Italy, England, Serbia, Germany, Qatar and back to England.

On the future, Taribo says: “Now that they have settled the imbroglio in the Nigeria football association, we all look forward to the game moving forward. We look forward to having a strong association whose members will serve the interests of the players and not their own pockets. I would not mind playing a role in some capacity, perhaps as a consultant to the Super Eagles.”

He is looking forward to getting married again, after his society wedding to a pretty banker, Atinuke, ended in divorce after a few years. “I am looking for a wife, and I believe very soon I will be going to the altar again,” Taribo said with a smile. ■



**TARIBO
 WEST**

Born: 26 March 1974 in Lagos
Nationality: Nigerian
Height: 1.87m
Weight: 80kg
Clubs: 1989: Ibukun-Oluwa (Nigeria). 1989-1990: Sharks (Nigeria). 1990-1991: Enugu Rangers (Nigeria). 1991-1993: Julius Berger (Nigeria). 1993-1997: Auxerre (France). 1997-1999: Inter Milan (Italy). 2000: AC Milan (Italy). 2001: Derby County (England). 2001-2002: Kaiserslautern (Germany). 2002: Partizan Belgrade (Serbia). 2002-2004: Al-Arabi (Qatar). 2004-2005: Plymouth Argyle (England).
Honours: 1993: African Youth Championship in Mauritius. 1994: French cup winner. 1996: French league champion and French cup winner. 1996: Olympic Football Tournament gold medallist in Atlanta (USA). 1997: UEFA Cup winner. 1998: took part in the World Cup in France. 2000: African Nations Cup runner-up in Ghana and Nigeria. 2002: African Nations Cup third place in Mali. 2002: took part in the World Cup in Korea and Japan. 2002: Serbian league and cup winner. 41 international appearances for Nigeria.

A spectacular interlude by Taribo West at the 1996 Olympic Football Tournament.

PHOTOS: KEYSTONE/IMAGO

As at 30 July 2006

On 9 August this year, one of the game's most successful and colourful coaches celebrated his 75th birthday. Nevertheless, having lost his job as technical director of the Brazilian national team just days beforehand, **Mario Zagallo** (photo) was not in the best of spirits to enjoy the occasion. Zagallo had spent almost half a century as part of the *Selecao* set-up, first as a player (winning the 1958 and 1962 World Cups), then later as a coach (leading his team to glory in the 1970 World Cup) and technical director (masterminding the 1994 World Cup triumph). However, anyone who thinks that Zagallo will finally be looking to putting his feet up, spend more time with his many grandchildren (Zagallo and wife Alcina themselves have four children) and maybe fit in the odd game of tennis is thoroughly mistaken. "I don't know how people can live without work and without football. I certainly can't," says Zagallo. "I want another coaching job and am open to offers." This living legend, who was involved – in some capacity – in 287 Brazil matches between 1957 and 2006, a period during which the team lost only 26 times, wants to return to coaching at the earliest possible opportunity. Despite undergoing surgery earlier this year, Zagallo is quick to dispel any concerns about his health: "I'm as fit as a fiddle and still have years of coaching left in me. I'll certainly still be around in 2014, when the World Cup will, I hope, be played in Brazil."

Since 1996, Argentine club **River Plate** has earned a total sum of USD 244 million in transfer fees for players. The highest fee the club has ever received was the USD 25.85 million Spanish giants Barcelona shelled out for Javier Saviola. Other top names to have represented the club include Hernan Crespo, Matias Almeyda, Ariel Ortega, Marcelo Gallardo (who recently returned to the club), Pablo Aimar, Fernando Cavenaghi and Javier



Mario Zagallo – the 75-year-old job-seeker

Mascherano. In a recent transaction, the Rio de la Plata side sold the transfer rights to 18-year-old Gonzalo Higuain to a group of investors for a cool USD 12 million. River Plate has found itself forced into selling its most promising players throughout the past decade because of crippling, ongoing financial problems, despite the substantial transfer revenues it has received.

Although the 1-1 draw between Cucuta and Real Cartagena in a

Colombian league fixture on 6 August 2006 was a relatively uneventful affair, fans in the stadium were brought to their feet in the closing minutes. When referee Carlos Eduardo Lopez spotted an infringement by one of the Cucuta players and gave a free kick to the away team in the middle of the field, the home coach, **Jorge Luis Pinto**, leapt angrily from the bench, ran to the touchline and – according to Lopez's match report – bawled at the referee: "Lopez, you've been bribed by Real. You're a thief, you're corrupt and you're shameless!" The ref immediately red-carded Pinto, at

which point the coach turned to his Real Cartagena counterpart, **Julio Comesana**, and accused him of bribing Colombian match officials. Comesana then proceeded to lose it as well, approaching Pinto and narrowly missing him with a punch. The pair's scandalous behaviour prompted the Colombian FA's disciplinary committee to pronounce a six-match suspension on Pinto and an eight-match ban for Comesana.

Following on from their impressive third place in this year's World Cup on home soil, the **German national team** received another major honour little more than four weeks after the tournament's end. German president Horst Kohler awarded the players the Silver Laurel Leaf, Germany's highest decoration for sporting achievement, in a special ceremony at his official Berlin residence, the Schloss Bellevue. Despite the absence of former coach Jurgen Klinsmann and captain Michael Ballack, Kohler presented the award personally to 19 members of the 23-man squad. "You developed a style, both on and off the pitch, that we have not seen for many years and it infected us all," said Kohler, lauding the players. "I am convinced that it was, above all, the way in which you conducted yourselves on and off the field that aroused such enthusiasm across our nation. The team spirit and the remarkable style that were palpable when you played football and made public appearances were contagious and spread the length and breadth of Germany. All of our country's people were – and still are – proud of you." Kohler drew special attention to the work of former coach Klinsmann, who had consciously

missed the ceremony so as not to divert any attention away from the team. Klinsmann is set to receive the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in the coming weeks.

The China PR women's national team sprung a surprise when they triumphed in the recent AFC Women's Asian Cup. However, victory on penalties in the final against hosts Australia and the 1-0 semi-final win over defending champions and pre-tournament favourites Korea DPR were not enough to satisfy coach **Ma Liangxing**: "Although we won the tournament, I would not say that we are back to our best form or that we've re-established ourselves among the world's top teams." Just over a year before her country hosts the FIFA Women's World Cup, the 48-year-old, who, having won 19 titles at club level alone, is China's most successful women's football coach of all time, has little time for claims that her side will be cast as favourites for the 2007 event. "We are still in transition," says Liangxing. "Most of our most experienced and successful players have retired from international football, and we still haven't filled the gaps they have left behind." Once

Right: Ma Liangxing. Bottom left: Horst Kohler and goalkeeper Jens Lehmann. Bottom right: multi-talented Ronaldinho in another guise.

PHOTOS: IMAGO (2)/AFP/GLOBO

such a major force in the women's game, with a fourth-place finish in the 1995 World Cup as well as runners-up spots in the 1999 World Cup and the 1996 Olympic Football Tournament, China disappointed as they were eliminated in the quarter-finals of the last Women's World Cup in the USA in 2003 and in the group stage of the 2004 Olympics in Athens. "If we want to compete with the best teams in next year's World Cup, we must improve dramatically," stresses Liangxing. "Therefore, my players and I still have a lot of work to do."

There are not too many products that footballers do not advertise. An Englishman recently held an internet auction for a bottle opener that was said to depict Brazilian star **Ronaldinho**. Brazilian newspaper *Globo* reported that the one-off item sold for the princely sum of USD 12,598. Whatever next?



QUIZ

The correct answers to the 20 questions on pages 50 and 51 are:
1. A / 2. A / 3. B / 4. C / 5. C / 6. A / 7. C / 8. B / 9. A / 10. C / 11. B / 12. A / 13. B / 14. B / 15. B / 16. B / 17. A / 18. B / 19. B / 20. C



1 October 1977

Pelé definitively retires from football. In a match between the New York Cosmos and Santos, the legendary forward plays for the US club in the first half and their Brazilian opponents in the second. He scores his last goal for Cosmos to the delight of the 70,000 fans. Pelé scored 1,281 goals in 1,363 matches.

2 October 1993

Five lion cubs born at La Paz zoo in Bolivia are named after members of the Bolivian national team.

5 October 1937

Austria qualify for the 1938 World Cup after beating Latvia 2-1. In the end, the Austrians would not take part in the tournament because, following their country's annexation by the German army, the players represented Germany instead.

7 October 1933

The International Football Association Board (IFAB) decides that "linesmen are mere assistants to the referee, who should not take into account his linesman's indications if he saw the incident for himself and was better positioned on the field of play".

8 October 1922

Dick Kerr's Ladies, a women's team from England, draw 4-4 with the local men's team, the Washington Stars.

9 October 1938

The first Fiji Inter-District Competition is held, with teams from Suva, Rewa, Ba, Levuka and Lautoka. The tournament lasted only one day, however, as the Fiji Indian Football Association had been founded the previous day.

10 October 1950

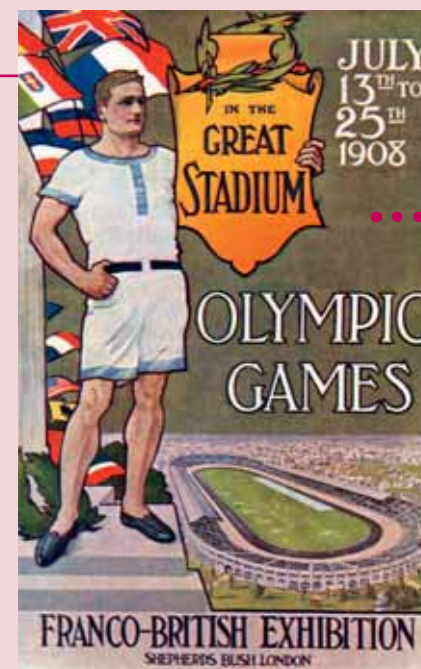
A storm breaks out during a match between Sevilla and Murcia and the gale force wind blows down the scoreboard, killing the scoreboard operator, Fernando Villapol.

11 October 1975

The General Assembly of New Zealand Soccer Inc decides to hold an annual women's football tournament.

13 October 1995

Gertrud Gebhard becomes the first woman to take an active part in a Bundesliga match. She performs the role of assistant referee at the match between Schalke 04 and Kaiserslautern.



14 October 1917

An Hector Scarone goal helps Uruguay lift their first Copa America, following their victory over Argentina in the final at the Parque Central stadium in Montevideo in front of 40,000 fans.

15 October 1999

Nepal Football Fan Club is founded with the aim of promoting and developing the game nationwide.

17 October 1932

Josef Silny becomes the first player in the Czechoslovakian league to score 100 goals after finding the net for Sparta Prague against local rivals Slavia Prague.

18 October 1908

The first derby between Inter and AC Milan is played in Switzerland in the final of a friendly tournament. The game ends 2-1 to AC Milan.



One day in October

by Harold Mayne-Nicholls

21 October 1984

Two accomplices to the theft and meltdown of the Jules Rimet Trophy won by Brazil at the 1970 World Cup are sentenced to ten years in prison. Antonio Pugliese and Carlos Hernandez, both gold dealers, had received the Jules Rimet Trophy from thieves and melted it down in December 1983.

22 October 1908

At the Olympic Games in London, Denmark's Sophus Nielsen scores a record number of goals (10) in an international match in his country's 17-1 victory over France.

23 October 1933

After 28 periods of extra time, the Farm Academy from Bristol, Ohio (USA) finally manage to overcome Erie High School, winning the match 1-0 after nine hours of play. The lighting needed to finish the game was provided by car headlights.

24 October 1857

Sheffield FC – the oldest football club in the world – is founded in England.

25 October 1998

Lightning strikes the pitch on which the South African teams Moroka Swallows and Jomo Cosmos are playing a match and two players are taken to hospital. Television pictures show seven players and the referee being simultaneously knocked to the ground by the electric shock caused by the lightning.