

Australia's depth proving vital as WC enters final four

Familiar foes ready to 'rip heads off' at World Cup

WEYBRIDGE, England, Oct. 22. (RTS): Amid the platitudes and mutual respect for each other coming out of the New Zealand and South Africa camps this week, both know their World Cup semi-final on Saturday is as cut-throat as it gets on the international stage.

A rivalry stretching back to 1921 has produced many epic encounters down the years, not least the 1995 final won by the Springboks, and their Twickenham showdown has all the ingredients of another classic.

Holder New Zealand, who stand on the verge of greatness with a second suc-

cessive final within their grasp, cruised through the pool stage but clicked ominously into gear with their quarter-final rout of France.

South Africa coach Heyneke Meyer hailed this All Blacks team as the best

RUGBY

ever after the 62-13 drubbing but his opposite number Steve Hansen was happy to take his friend's comments with a pinch of salt.

"H (Heyneke) has been very comple-

mentary, just about killed us with kindness," Hansen told reporters on Thursday.

"He's a cunning wee devil ... praising us all week. While I know he means some of it at the same time they are getting ready to rip our heads off."

The two southern hemisphere powers have met three times in World Cups, the last occasion in the 2003 quarter-finals when the All Blacks secured a comfortable 29-9 victory — South Africa's heaviest in a World Cup match.

New Zealand have held the upper hand by winning 10 of their 12 games since 2010, the most recent a 27-20 Rugby

Championship win in Johannesburg in July.

The All Blacks got home with a late Richie McCaw try that day but were pushed hard by the Springboks who enjoyed periods of dominance at Ellis Park and played with aggression and intensity to worry the world champions.

Meanwhile, Australian coach Michael Cheika and his star players have been getting all the attention during the Rugby World Cup but the Wallabies know their chances of winning the tournament are dependent on the depth of their squad and the backroom staff.

After fighting their way through the so-called group of death with England and Wales, then surviving a heart-stopping quarter-final against Scotland, the Wallabies are battling a high-injury list and fatigue as they prepare for Sunday's semi-final against Argentina.

The players were given a rare day off on Thursday to rest their bodies before Cheika announces his team on Friday, with even the top leaders unsure if they will be picked.

Matt Giteau, who earned his 100th cap against the Scots last week and was named man of the match after the 35-34

thriller, said the competition for places was good for everyone.

"No-one knows who's playing. The competition is tough, training is very game-like and as soon as you get that combativeness and a training environment like that you're only going to get better," he said.

"We've got so many great players in the backline but also in the forwards as well so everyone is pushing everyone for positions.

"Everyone wants to play and everyone seems to be playing well so it's a tough job I think for the selectors."

Ramos, Ampo, Laroya in control of Lower Level

Millanar, Ladia, Dialogo top Damayan Cup

By Gwenn Peralta

Special to the Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Damayan Cup 2015 was another exciting event that began last Friday at the Al-Nasser Stadium. This tournament was named when typhoon Yolanda hit the Philippines and at that time it was decided to make it a yearly event as a way of expressing sympathy and unity with the Filipinos.

The Filipino Badminton Club in Kuwait — FILBACK, under tournament Director Noel Candolesas and tournament Directors Nato Calanog and Alex Hernandez made it possible. It stands for what the FILBACK believe in a family that helps each other not only on the field of play but also outside of it.

The ranking for this tournament will be based on the score of each player. However for the Higher Level and Lower Level they have added a group score and the ranking will also be composed by a team.

BADMINTON

For Higher Level each team is composed of 4 players, lower level is composed of 3 players and the Level D which is still in individual ranking and scoring same as before.

Higher Level

In the Higher Level there is the Team 6 in Rank 1 with 770 points, in Rank 2 Team 3 with 730 points and Team 2 with 676 points is in Rank 3.

In Team 6 are Emil Millanar, Sid Ladia, Andy Dialogo and one open slot to fill in their team. During the games they faced Team 12 and Team 10. Emil and partner defeated Emman and Joel 21-20, 21-16. Sid and Andy won against Joel and Niranga 21-16, 21-20. Sid and partner slammed Emman and Joel 21-16, 21-14 while Emil and Andy lose to Joel and Niranga 21-16, 14-21, 14-21.

Meanwhile with their game with team 12 Emil and partner smashed Nato and Fred 21-15, 21-17. Sid and Ladia thumped Gemar and Romeo 21-15, 21-11. Andy and partner flattened Nato and Gemar 21-11, 21-15 and Emil and Andy pummeled Fred and Romeo 21-15, 21-11.

Team 3 players are Roy Satorre, Doy Viray, Bong Labayo and Addy Diaz. They faced off with team 10 and 12. Facing team 10, Roy and Doy was defeated by Emman and Joel 13-21, 21-15, 14-21. Bong and Addy won against Joel and Niranga 21-15, 21-15. Roy and Bong prevailed against Emman and Joel 21-13, 21-20 while Doy and Addy outclassed Joel and Niranga 21-16, 21-16. Competing against team 12, Roy and Doy were beaten by Nato and Fred 21-14, 19-21, 17-21. Bong and Addy triumphed against Fred and Romeo 21-15, 17-21, 21-20. Roy and Bong outlasted Nato and Fred 21-19, 21-9 as Doy and Addy thrashed Nato and Romeo 21-16, 21-

16. Team 2 players are Victor Toledo, Anthony Petrache, Amith Kumar and Cris Castilla. They fought against team 7 and 8. With Team 7, Victor and Toledo were defeated by Erickson and Vincent 14-21, 21-16, 8-21. Amith and Cris smashed Anthony and Siby 21-18, 21-13. Victor and Amith were thumped by Erickson and Anthony 18-21, 21-20, 12-21 as Anthony and Cris thrashed Vincent and Siby 21-12, 21-14.

Facing team 8 Victor and Anthony prevailed against Henry and Allan 21-19, 20-21, 21-18. Amith and Cris prevailed against Brandon and Allysa 15-21, 21-9, 21-16. Victor and Amith slammed Henry and Brandon 21-12, 21-20 while Anthony and Cris outlasted Allan and Allysa 21-17, 19-21, 21-19.

Lower Level

In the Lower Level we have Team 4 with 550 points in Rank 1, Team 6 with 536 points in Rank 2 and Team 10 with 532 points in Rank 3.

Team 4 players are Melissa Ramos, Joy Ampo and Julieann Laroya. They faced team 7 and 9. Pitted against team 7, Melissa and Joy were thumped by Albert and Leonor 17-21, 16-21. Melissa and Julieann smashed Albert and Joy 21-15, 21-17 as Joy and Julieann victor against Leonor and Joy 21-15, 18-21, 21-15. When they faced team 9 Melissa and Joy slammed Yohan and Jaime 21-18, 21-11. Melissa and Julieann pummeled Yohan and Mayeen 21-4, 21-10 while Joy and Julieann clobbered Jaime and Mayeen 21-20, 21-16.

Team 6 players are George Burgos, Maridel Estinoso and Ninette Regner. They competed against team 5 and 7. Facing team 5 George and Maridel flattened Bevs and Dang 21-10, 21-10. George and Ninette triumphed against Bevs and Aurora 18-21, 21-18, 21-15 as Maridel and Ninette outclassed Dand and Aurora 20-21, 21-13, 21-16. During their face off against team 7 George and Maridel smashed Albert and Leonor 21-17, 21-16. George and Ninette lose to Albert and Joy 15-21, 19-21 while Maridel and Ninette squashed Leonor and Joy 21-18, 21-11.

Team 10 players are Romy Lomarda, Rami Khaled and Lourdes Orbase. Their team fought against team 3 and team 12. During their battle against team 3 Romy and Rami triumphed against Emily and Apple 21-17, 18-21, 21-15. Romy and Lourdes outclassed Emily and Cath 21-20, 21-19 while Rami and Lourdes won against Apple and Cath 19-21, 21-11, 21-13. Facing off team 12 Romy and Rami flattened Regine and Maricris 21-12, 21-16. Romy and Lourdes were defeated by Regine and Sally 13-21, 21-14, 19-21 while Rami and Lourdes prevailed against Maricris and Sally 21-13, 17-21, 21-17.

Level D

In this category for the higher level Irene Raban is leading with 178 points while second in line is Joy Agaloos with 145 points in tow and running third is Jevs Cruz with 138 points in tow.

As for the Lower Category the top player of the pack is Marju Delavin with 181 points seconded by Lilibeth Lacanale with 174 points and coming in third is Remy Larano with 168 points.

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Junnel Silva



Roger Jimenez



Abby Sayoto



Regina Panesal

30 percent of former players develop brain conditions

Concussion treatment, diagnosis 'focus'

DETROIT, Oct 22, (RTS): Medical experts and National Football League (NFL) officials will gather with peers from other top global sports on Saturday in a bid to accelerate how to properly diagnose and treat player concussions.

Three dozen doctors and executives from rugby, hockey, soccer and athletics will meet in London at the NFL's second annual professional sports concussion conference.

Concussions and head trauma suffered by athletes remain a controversial topic, prompting many contact sports to change rules and adopt new protocols to ensure

a higher level of player safety.

The NFL in April settled a lawsuit brought by about 5,000 former players who accused it of covering up the dangers of concussions in a deal that could cost the league \$1 billion.

Items on Saturday's agenda include an expected announcement of an NFL collaboration with a foundation studying the long-term impact of concussions on jockeys, and the sharing of a Canadian Football League study on identifying concussions through eye movement tests, said Jeff Miller, the NFL's senior vice pres-

ident of health and safety policy.

Miller said the conference will also consider a proposal for the NFL, international rugby and Australian Rules Football to test active rehabilitation as a better form of concussion treatment.

Some critics see the NFL-hosted London event as window dressing by the various sports bodies to protect their revenue streams. The most-popular and powerful US sports league, revenues at the NFL topped \$12 billion last year.

But the co-chairman of the NFL's head, neck and spine committee, Dr Richard Ellenbogen, said the conference is meant to help fill in gaps in an area of medicine where a lot about concussions remains unknown.

"It is accelerating the research because ... when you get a lot of scientists in a room you get a lot of controversy and discussion so the science is just better," Ellenbogen, also chairman of neurological surgery at the University of Washington School of Medicine, told Reuters.

Fifteen different organizations will be represented in London, including the world soccer governing body FIFA, Australian Rules Football, World Rugby, the Canadian Football League and the International Federation for Equestrian Sports.

Also sending officials are the US Olympic Committee, the National Hockey League (NHL) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

The conference is being held ahead of an NFL game in London on Sunday between the Buffalo Bills and Jacksonville Jaguars.

Some critics said the NFL conference is a marketing bid to shape how the public views an issue that is still unfolding.

"What they're attempting to do is create a body of opinion and body of literature that tells the public that these concussions are manageable ... short-term problems," said Michael Kaplen, an attorney specializing in traumatic brain injuries who teaches at George Washington Law School, and a long-time critic of the NFL's science around the subject.

While Ellenbogen acknowledges the criticism is fair, he said the leagues must fight their biases to protect the athletes' health.

Miller said player safety is a top priority for the NFL, pointing to 39 rules changes over the past decade related to player safety and a 34 percent decline in concussions in the league over the last three years. The NFL has awarded more than \$135 million in grants over the same period related to research on player safety.

The league and plaintiffs agreed that based on actuarial statistics up to 30 percent of former players could develop brain conditions such as Alzheimer's or a less debilitating form of dementia.

Most sports leagues have been caught "flat footed" by the concussion issue, said Ohio University sports business professor Robert Boland.

In addition to the NFL, lawsuits have been filed in recent years against FIFA, the NHL and the NCAA. Even on the youth level the issue has gained prominence.

US President Barack Obama and National Basketball Association all-star LeBron James are among those who have said they would not allow their children to play pro football due to the dangers from head trauma.

Several suicides by former NFL players, including Hall of Fame linebacker Junior Seau in 2012, garnered public attention. Last month, a study released by the Concussion Legacy Foundation found all but four of 91 former NFL players who donated their brains for research were diagnosed with a disease linked to concussions and head trauma.



Jacksonville Jaguars tight end Julius Thomas (80) makes a catch in front of Houston Texans cornerback Johnathan Joseph during the first half of an NFL football game in Jacksonville, Florida on Oct 18. (AP)

'No. 1 element to stabilize small-market franchise'

Jaguars taking different approach

JACKSONVILLE, Fla, Oct 22, (AP): The Jacksonville Jaguars have approached their annual trip to London several different ways.

They traveled early in the week following a home game. They flew across the pond after a road game. This week, they will arrive three days before playing Buffalo (3-3).

Although the details have varied from year to year, the Jaguars (1-5) believe they have a much better grasp on the irregular routine of being 4,200 miles from home. And they would like to finally benefit from it.

Jacksonville lost its first two games at Wembley Stadium by a combined score of 73-27.

"The last couple times it was straight massacres out there," veteran tight end

FOOTBALL

Marcedes Lewis said Wednesday. "So we're trying to change that around."

The Jaguars, who have lost four in a row, believe making the overseas trek the last two years will eliminate any potential for players and coaches to be shell-shocked or awe-struck by London.

"It's a great city, but the reason we're going over there is to play a football game at our highest level," linebacker Paul Posluszny said. "We can experience the city when we get a minute, but we need to make sure it doesn't affect anything work related."

Jaguars owner Shad Khan said last month he expects to play annually in London at least until 2030. The NFL has an announcement scheduled for Thursday afternoon, and it could be for a long-term deal that will have Jacksonville playing one home game annually in London for the foreseeable future.

The Jaguars clearly want to be London's team. But they also want to make playing there as much of a home-field advantage as possible.

"We know we're going to go there every year, so let's take advantage of this," Posluszny said. "It's important for our organization, so let's do the job on the field and make it that way."

Khan calls playing in London the "No. 1 element to stabilizing" the small-market franchise.

The annual trip, one of Jacksonville's 10 home games, including exhibitions, accounts for 15 percent of the team's local revenue. So there are reasons for the trip.

The Jaguars just need to find the best way to make it successful.

NFL Roundup

Brady wants to play '10 more yrs'

Yahoo slashes ad price for streaming NFL game: sources

NEW YORK, Oct 22, (Agencies): Yahoo Inc has dropped the price of advertising for its first Web-streamed National Football League game on Sunday from an early price of \$200,000 to less than \$100,000, two media buyers familiar with the situation told Reuters on Wednesday.

The match between the Buffalo Bills and Jacksonville Jaguars in London on Sunday will be the first free global live stream of an NFL game, making it a test case for a media industry eager to tap online audiences.

Yahoo declined to comment on ad prices but noted that Chief Executive Officer Marissa Mayer in an earnings call on Tuesday said that Yahoo had sold out all game day advertisements.

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady says he has no plans to retire any time soon and hopes to play



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) throws before an NFL football game against the Indianapolis Colts in Indianapolis on Oct 18. (AP)

another 10 years. "I'd like to play a long time, yeah, a long time," Brady said during a conference call with New York Jets reporters Wednesday.

"There's a lot that goes into playing well. I've played with a lot of great teammates, but I want to play for a long time. Maybe 10 more years. I think that's probably what my goal is."

When asked if he was being serious about playing another decade, Brady insisted that is definitely his plan.

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A Los Angeles County jury began deliberations on Wednesday in the murder trial of former Oakland Raiders defensive end Anthony Wayne Smith, charged with killing four Southern California men over the course of nearly a decade. The 48-year-old onetime National Football League star, whose original trial in one of the slayings ended in a hung jury, faces a maximum sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole if convicted.

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The Cincinnati Bengals reached tentative settlement of a federal lawsuit over pay for their cheerleaders, one of several cases in which NFL cheerleaders claimed they received substandard compensation.

Documents filed recently in US District Court show the Bengals agreed to pay Ben-Gal cheerleaders a total of \$255,000 to settle the 2014 lawsuit alleging that their time commitments for games, practices and promotional events netted them payment that was below minimum wage.

Those covered cheered in the 2011-13 seasons and could receive at least \$2,500 each per season. Court documents state that the Bengals started paying more in 2014 and that the team denies any wrongdoing but decided to settle the lawsuit to avoid lengthy, expensive litigation.