

2 more confirmed under investigation by ethics committee

FIFA '10 exec lineup scores 'high' for bad behavior

GENEVA, Oct 22, (AP) — In the history of soccer lineups, the 24-man FIFA executive committee of 2010 ranks among the all-time worst for bad behavior.

On Wednesday, two more of the FIFA ExCo team which voted for the 2018-2022 World Cup hosts were formally confirmed as under investigation by the embattled governing body's ethics committee.

German soccer icon Franz Beckenbauer and FIFA vice president Angel Maria Villar of Spain could add to the ranks of 10 who have been banned or are currently suspended from football duty.

Beckenbauer — the only man to captain and coach World Cup-winning teams — and Villar await the verdict of FIFA's ethics judges, over whether they obstructed former US Attorney Michael Garcia's investigation of the bidding contests, won by Russia and Qatar.

The hard-working ethics committee now has more of the 24 in its sights, including FIFA President Sepp Blatter and his would-be successor Michel Platini.

Here is how the FIFA rap sheet reads today:

Sepp Blatter (Switzerland, ExCo since 1998-currently suspended)

Blatter is under criminal investigation by Switzerland's attorney general for a suspected "disloyal payment" of \$2 million of FIFA money to Platini in 2011. Blatter's 17-year presidency is on hold to fight a FIFA ethics investigation of the case.

Julio Grondona (Argentina, 1988-2014)

Died in July 2014. Longtime FIFA finance committee chairman implicated in approving \$10 million payment through FIFA to Jack Warner in 2008. A US Department of Justice indictment published in May alleges it was a bribe from 2010 World Cup host South Africa.

ISSA Hayatou (Cameroon, 1990-present)

Interim FIFA President in Blatter's

SOCCER

absence denied claims made at a British Parliamentary hearing in 2011 that he got a seven-figure bribe to vote for Qatar. Reprimanded by the IOC in 2011 for taking cash from FIFA's then-marketing agency partner in the 1990s.

Chung Mong-Joon (South Korea, 1994-2011)

Would-be FIFA presidential candidate banned for six years by FIFA ethics committee this month. Case arose from Garcia report allegation of undue financial pledges to FIFA members if South Korea won 2022 hosting vote. A billionaire member of family owning World Cup sponsor Hyundai, he is fighting the case.

Jack Warner (Trinidad and Tobago, 1983-2011)

Banned for life by FIFA ethics committee last month in another Garcia case. Warner's lengthy FIFA career is littered with allegations of financial wrongdoing.

Angel Maria Villar (Spain, 1998-present)

Former Spain international and chair of FIFA legal committee who was openly hostile to Garcia's authority. Leader of joint Spain-Portugal 2018 bid which Blatter later said had a voting pact with Qatar.

Michel Platini (France, 2002-currently suspended)

UEFA President and FIFA heir apparent whose presidential campaign has been badly damaged by taking \$2 million in uncontracted pay for working as an adviser to his mentor Blatter a decade earlier.

Geoff Thompson (England, 2007-2011)

Maybe most low-key personality among the 2010 ExCo Untainted by cor-



In this Oct 21, photo, Yomiuri Giants President Hiroshi Kubo speaks as Giants Legal Affairs Department head Kiyoshi Morita bows before journalists during a press conference at the Yomiuri headquarters in Tokyo. (AP)

More baseball players involved

Tokyo Oly chiefs blast betting scandal

TOKYO, Oct 22, (AFP) — Tokyo Olympic officials said Thursday that a betting scandal involving Japan's top baseball team threatened the integrity of the sport as it seeks re-entry to the Olympics in 2020.

The Yomiuri Giants — Japan's New York Yankees in terms of popularity and commercial reach — formally apologised on Wednesday after pitchers Shoki Kasahara and Ryuya Matsumoto were found to have gambled on baseball games. Gambling in Japan is generally illegal, including most sports betting.

The findings by Nippon Professional Baseball, the professional domestic league, follow revelations earlier this month that another player, Satoshi Fukuda, had also been involved in illegal betting.

It not clear if the players will face

criminal charges. Tokyo 2020 officials are keen to see baseball reinstated after losing its Olympic status in 2008, and said the revelations tarnish the sport's credibility in baseball-mad Japan.

"This issue threatens the integrity of sport and the trust of baseball fans and

BASEBALL

society in general," Hidetoshi Fujisawa, executive director of communications for the Tokyo Olympics, told AFP.

"We condemn the incident in the strongest possible terms."

Japan has been rocked by betting scandals in the closeted world of sumo in

recent years, prompting sponsors to withdraw financial support and police to clamp down on the murky links between the sport and organised crime.

The police have spoken to Yomiuri officials, according to reports, but Olympic officials fear any further revelations could jeopardise baseball's inclusion at the Tokyo Games.

Fujisawa urged authorities to "implement necessary measures to ensure that these types of illegal practices are completely eradicated."

"The international sporting community has high expectations of Japan," he added.

A photo of Giants president Hiroshi Kubo bowing deeply at a press conference, a common form of apology in Japan, made the front pages of several newspapers Thursday.

German soccer boss denies WC corruption

'6.7 mln euros paid to FIFA for subsidies'

BERLIN, Oct 22, (AFP) — German football chief Wolfgang Niersbach said Thursday that a controversial 6.7 million-euro payment was not a bribe to obtain the right to host the 2006 World Cup, rather, the sum was transferred in order to secure a substantial subsidy from FIFA.

"There was no slush fund, there was no vote buying," said Niersbach.

Niersbach explained that the sum in question was paid to FIFA in 2002 in order to later receive from football's governing body some 170 million euros in subsidies to organise the tournament.

The football chief said that the World Cup organising committee then had three potential revenue sources, — ticket sales, national sponsors, and possible subsidies from FIFA.

He claimed that in January 2002, FIFA chief Sepp Blatter held "four-eye talks" with Franz Beckenbauer in which the German football legend was told the organisation could provide 250 million Swiss francs (then worth approximately 170 million euros) in subsidies but that Beckenbauer had to speak to the finance commission about it.

"Then the talks with the finance commission took place. To this day, I don't

know who was at those talks," said Niersbach.

Eventually there was an agreement on the 250 million francs, "but in return 10 million francs (then worth 6.7 million euros) must be transferred to the (FIFA) finance commission," he added.

Beckenbauer was ready then to put up the 10 million with his private funds, but his manager had advised him to stay out of the issue, said Niersbach.

Subsequently, it was the then chief executive of Adidas, Robert Louis-Dreyfus, who put up the 10 million francs.

Niersbach added that he "was not aware of this process in January 2002".

A few years later, said the German football chief, the sum reappeared on its accounts as it had to be repaid to Louis-Dreyfus.

Niersbach said he had been aware of the issue since June, and apologised for not having informed other board members earlier.

German news weekly Spiegel had claimed in a report last week that the German bidding committee had accepted a 10.3 million Swiss francs (6.7 million euros at that time) loan from Louis-Dreyfus.

Spiegel claims the loan was used to buy the votes of four Asian members of FIFA's 24-strong executive committee.

He again for financial wrongdoing while Asian Football Confederation president.

Senes Erzik (Turkey, 1996-present)

Former UNICEF official who says little in public.

Chuck Blazer (United States, 1996-2013)

Warner's business-savvy partner at CONCACAF turned whistleblower on his ally and Bin Hammam in the 2011 bribery case in Trinidad. In the fallout, his and CONCACAF's tax affairs became a federal case that grew into the US indictment, with Blazer as star cooperating witness.

Worawi Makudi (Thailand, 1997-2015)

On 90-day suspension by FIFA ethics committee, apparently over alleged election fraud at his home federation. Longtime Bin Hammam ally who survived previous allegations of wrongdoing.

Nicolas Leoz (Paraguay, 1998-2013)

Indicted in the American case on bribery charges, now fighting extradition

Best of the Rest

Cruyff has cancer: Dutch football great Johan Cruyff is battling lung cancer, his spokeswoman said Thursday.

"He has been in hospital this week for tests and lung cancer has been confirmed," said Carole Thate, a spokeswoman for the 68-year-old former Ajax and Barcelona star.

She gave no further comment on Cruyff's condition, saying he was undergoing further tests.

Cruyff, who personified his country's attacking Total Football in the 1970s, was a smoker during his playing days and until undergoing an emergency heart bypass in 1991. Afterward, he became the face of an anti-smoking campaign. (AP)

Neymar returns from ban:

Neymar has been recalled for Brazil's 2018 World Cup qualifiers against Argentina and Peru next month in a squad that features four players from Corinthians, Brazil manager Dunga said on Thursday.

The club's goalkeeper, Cassio, has been called up for the first time, alongside defender Gil and midfielders Elias and Renato Augusto.

The Sao Paulo side are running away with Brazil's Serie A and have the best attack and the stingiest defence. (RTRS)

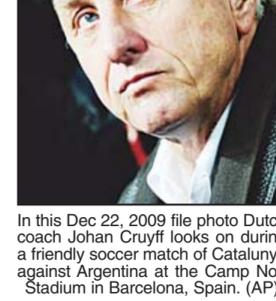
Bouzou re-elected: Joel Bouzou

has been re-elected unopposed as president of the World Olympians Association.

Bouzou was first elected in 2011 when he succeeded former Olympic high jump champion Dick Fosbury as head of the organization representing former Olympic athletes.

Bouzou competed for France in four Olympics in modern pentathlon. He is the founder of the Peace and Sport

organization. (AP)



In this Dec 22, 2009 file photo Dutch coach Johan Cruyff looks on during a friendly soccer match of Catalunya against Argentina at the Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

Safarova qualifies: Lucie Safarova grabbed the last spot at the WTA finals Thursday after her last rival Carla Suarez Navarro lost to a qualifier at the Kremlin Cup.

Suarez Navarro could have qualified for the season-ending tournament in Singapore by reaching the final in Moscow but was beaten 6-1, 6-2 by Russia's Daria Kasatkina in the quarterfinals.

Suarez Navarro landed just 56 percent of her first serves as she was dismissed in less than an hour by Kasatkina, who at 104th in the world is ranked 90 places below her Spanish opponent.

Suarez Navarro said she had "a really bad day" against Kasatkina but denied she was feeling the pressure of having to qualify for next week's finals. (AP)

Ferrer keeps dream alive:

David Ferrer spent a mere 62 minutes in delivering a crushing 6-1, 6-1 defeat to fellow Spaniard Guillermo Garcia-Lopez on Thursday to stay in the chase for a spot in the ATP World Tour Finals.

The top seed who lost the final here a year ago at the Stadthalle to Andy Murray, strengthened his claim on provisional eighth in the race for the last two positions in the eight-man London tournament. (AFP)

Vitaly Mutko (Russia, 2009-present)

Russian sports minister and part of the St. Petersburg group of officials that has followed the rise of Vladimir Putin.

Amos Adamu (Nigeria, 2006-2010)

Barred from World Cup votes while serving three-year ban for seeking bribes from undercover Sunday Times reporters posing as lobbyists. Revealed Wednesday to be facing a fresh FIFA ethics investigation.

Reynald Temarii (Tahiti, 2004-2010)

Then-FIFA vice president barred from voting while serving a one-year ban for unethical discussions with Sunday Times reporters. Later got eight-year ban for taking 300,000 euros (now \$340,000) from Bin Hammam to pay legal fees during the first case.



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