

World Cup providing fans first class soccer excitement

By FRED GONZALEZ
Sports Editor

If anyone thinks soccer is boring, all they have to do is watch the World Cup in Italy, and their idea of the sport will be totally changed.

In the first four days of the world's most popular sporting event, there have been 23 goals scored and an average of 2.7 goals a game. That is incredibly high, according to local soccer fanatic and *The Gamecock's* soccer guru Yasser Elguindi. He says it has been a real offensive show with wide open football and no real defensive matches. He went on to say that in the past most first round matches have been conservative, but so far in Italia '90 there hasn't been one boring game. This World Cup has been a fun one to watch, and the lethal squads like Holland and Spain, haven't even played yet.

Perhaps the tone for this World Cup was set on Friday in the opening match when little Cameroon upset Argentina 1-0. Francois Omam-Biyik's head shot and his teams performance seemed to inspire a lot of the underdogs in the first round. For example, on Saturday Romania shocked the USSR 2-0, behind two goals by Marius Lacatus. And on Monday Costa Rica upset Scotland 1-0.

One team that hoped to be inspired was the U.S. squad. But their dreams of the second round seem to have gone up in smoke with a 5-1 loss to Czechoslovakia. Elguindi feels the chances for the U.S. are over, but he said the U.S. is very young and will be back in 1994 when the U.S. host the World Cup. All they need is some experience.

The best match of the first four days was on Sun-

day when Brazil beat Sweden 2-1. Careca scored goals in each half to give the Brazilians a 2-0 lead. But a late Sweden goal provided for an exciting finish in which Sweden had chances to tie the game, and Brazil had chances to extend their lead. Careca had two chances at completing a hat trick.

The best performances over the weekend were by Omam-Biyik, Lacatus and Careca. And Omam-Biyik and Lacatus will face each other on Thursday in a key Group B match. The winner of the Cameroon-Romania match will be assured a trip to the second round and tabbed the surprise team of the cup. When looking at the standings in Group B, Argentina and the Soviets could be fighting for the third place position, making their match on Wednesday much more important.

In reviewing TNT's coverage of the tournament, the biggest disappointment is the commercials. Soccer is not a made-for-television sport, and it should stay that way. And the sport of soccer will never change on the account of a network. So it is disappointing to miss part of the matches that could be the best because of commercials. Perhaps a split screen could be used with the soccer match in a small box while the commercials ran or run the advertisements at halftime.

This week will be another exciting match. Wednesday's top match is Argentina versus the USSR. This is a crucial match for both teams. On Thursday, the surprise match-up takes place when Cameroon and Romania square off for a birth in the second round. TNT will have the Italy-USA match on at 3 p.m.



Skeets Thomas



Brian Williams

Thomas, Williams nab postseason honors

From Staff Reports

The statistics are in for Metro baseball and the Gamecocks.

For starters, the baseball team finished the Metro conference with a 10-6 record and a third place finish, behind conference champ Florida State and runner-up Southern Miss. The Gamecock's were 5-4 at home in Metro games and 5-2 away. Overall the squad was 33-25 with a home mark of 23-11.

Named to the All-Metro first team were outfielder Skeets Thomas and utility player Brian Williams. Burke Cromer was named to the second team as a shortstop. Cromer was also named to the All-Tournament team.

Three players earned Metro Player-of-the-Week honors. Thomas was the first on March 26, while D.T. Cromer earned the honor two weeks later on April 9.

The following week Williams was named player of the week.

Carolina's six conference losses came twice to Florida State and Virginia Tech, and once to Southern Miss and Cincinnati.

Overall, the Gamecocks were fourth in team batting with a .287 avg., third in homers with 42 homers in 58 games and fourth in pitching with a 4.31 ERA.

Individually, Thomas led the conference in batting with a .383 avg. He was second in RBIs with a 1.02 average and 59 in 58 games. Pitching wise, Brian Beaston led the conference with a 2.23 ERA, while Jared Baker and Williams were first and third, respectively, in the conference strike-out department. Baker had a 10.96 average and Williams had a 10.51 average. Williams ranked second in total strikeouts with 125, while Beaston led the Metro in saves with 12.

Friday's top match will be Austria against Czechoslovakia, while Saturday pits England and Holland in what could be the top match of the week. Sunday will have Elguindi's home land, Egypt, facing Ireland in a tough match-up, while Monday will provide the best doubleheader with Romania facing Argentina and Cameroon facing the Soviets. After these two matches Group B will have concluded their play. On Tuesday,

the Italy-Czechoslovakia contest could be for the Group A title.

TNT's weekend schedule has Brazil and Costa Rica, the two leaders of Group C, meeting at 11 a.m., while Holland and England will battle at 3 p.m. on Saturday. Sunday's schedule will have Ireland facing Egypt at 11 a.m., and Spain facing South Korea at 3 p.m.

Big East-ACC pairings announced, Tigers to tangle with Seton Hall

By the Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun learned Tuesday the ribbing he took from fellow Big East coaches about playing North Carolina in Chapel Hill during the second ACC-Big East Challenge was no joke.

"I'm sure that was a misprint," Calhoun said by conference call after the pairings were announced.

It wasn't. The preseason tournament, stung by poor attendance at some neutral sites and criticism of \$30 tickets during its inaugural year, is coming home to campus — or close by.

Not only do Coach Dean Smith and the Tar Heels get a home court advantage. Syracuse will play at its Carrier Dome, Virginia will play at the Richmond Coliseum and Georgetown will have the advantage of the Capital Centre in Landover, Md.

The meeting of the country's two top college basketball conferences features four doubleheaders in four days, beginning Dec. 3 at Richmond with fourth seeds Virginia and Pittsburgh and ending with the top-seeded North Carolina-Connecticut game Dec. 6 at the Smith Center.

The seedings are chosen by a coaches' vote. Cal-

houn said his fellow Big East coaches ribbed him at the conference's annual meeting two weeks ago about having the Huskies, who lost to Duke in the NCAA regionals, play perennial powerhouse North Carolina.

"That was just a joke, but apparently it's not a joke," Calhoun said.

The Big East-ACC Challenge is now making — in some way forcing schools to play tough, early-season games," Calhoun said. "Not that I necessarily want to visit Dean in a building named after him. That really tells me everything I need to know."

Calhoun can't complain much. Last year the Huskies whipped Maryland at the "neutral" Hartford Civic Center.

But crowds were less than 12,000 at Hartford and the Greensboro Coliseum. Only at New Jersey's Meadowlands Arena did more than 18,000 watch Georgetown beat North Carolina to split the series at 4-4.

The \$30 tickets took the heat. Outgoing Big East Commissioner Dave Gavitt promised to be "more sensitive" to each market this year "and whatever comes out in the final mix I think will probably make more sense than what we did last year."

Gavitt said there should be a meeting on ticket

prices within a month.

"When we started talking about it after last year we said, 'Hey, one of these years we ought to try the campus sites.' So we decided that this year the way the drawings came out, this would be probably as good a year to try it as any," ACC Commissioner Gene Corrigan said.

The agreement between the conferences and for television rights with ESPN runs until 1992. Corrigan said he expected the Dec. 3 game between eighth seeds Boston College and Maryland, which is fighting NCAA probation and a two-year live television ban, would be tape delayed.

Georgia Tech coach Bobby Cremins wanted to play in Atlanta's Omni, but knew when Dennis Scott opted for the NBA that the Yellow Jackets wouldn't be picked no. 1 in the ACC "and not being number one put us on the road."

Corrigan said the Omni had been considered but Scott's loss was a factor.

The Yellow Jackets, seeded fifth, will face St. John's Dec. 5 at the Capital Center, which also will host second seeds Duke and Georgetown.

Georgia Tech got the short end of a three-way tie for third seed with North Carolina State, which ended

up No. 3, and Virginia, No. 4. In the Big East, Pittsburgh tied with Syracuse for third seed, but the Orangemen got the nod.

Georgia Tech will face St. John's Dec. 5 at the Capital Centre, as will second seeds Duke and Georgetown.

N.C. State and Syracuse will play at the Carrier Dome Dec. 4, as will Clemson and Seton Hall, seeded sixth. Wake Forest and Villanova, seeded seventh, will play the final night in Chapel Hill.

Providence, the ninth Big East team, sits out this year in favor of Boston College, which didn't play last year.

Clemson coach Cliff Ellis said he welcomes a chance to play Seton Hall.

"It is ironic that we are playing Seton Hall, because I recently spent a lot of time with Coach Carlesimo in Colorado when we were involved in the selection of the national team," Ellis said.

In looking ahead to the game, Ellis knows it will be a test for the Tigers, who will be without star center Elden Campbell, who graduated this past season.

"We no longer have Elden Campbell and three of our top four guards from a year ago," he said. "This will be a challenge for us."

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