

Second Goal Killed Us but Hilal Deserved the Win Concedes Ivankovic



Branko Ivankovic

RIYADHS (Persian League) - Persepolis coach Branko Ivankovic conceded his team lost all hope of advancing to the quarter-finals of the 2015 AFC Champions League once Al Hilal scored the second goal in their 3-0 win over the Iranians on Tuesday at the King Fahd International Stadium.

The Saudi side - finalists in last year's competition - ran out 3-1 aggregate winners after Persepolis won the first leg 1-0 in Tehran, with veteran midfielder Mohammad Shalhoub putting Al Hilal ahead on aggregate after Yousef Al Salem had earlier levelled the scores. "I want to thank my players who

put in a strong performance in such a big match," said the Croatian (pictured), who took over at the club in March. "We tried our best to make a good comeback after conceding the first goal but things were settled after the second goal of Al Hilal." Persepolis led after a late own goal

from Al Hilal's Brazilian defender Digao in the first leg at the Azadi Stadium and no one in a red shirt looked capable of finding the back of the net in a team that was largely set up to defend the lead.

Al Salem's goal in the 29th minute rocked the Iranians, however, and when Shalhoub netted from the penalty spot three minutes before the hour mark, the game was all but up for Persepolis.

The Tehran club finally opened up in an attempt to pull themselves back into the tie but Abdulaziz Al Dawsari's strike in stoppage time condemned Ivankovic's side to defeat as Persepolis missed out on the quarter-finals once again.

"I want to congratulate Al Hilal and their fans for their win as they deserved to qualify to the next round," said the former Iran national team coach. "I know Al Hilal very well but the reaction that I was looking for from my players was missing.

"Al Hilal are a strong team and they are one of the favourites to win the title as they reached the final of the competition last year.

"My knowledge of Al Hilal didn't mean that we could beat them tonight and the players couldn't achieve the result that we were looking for."

Two Qazvini Archers Dispatched to Turkey World Cup

QAZVIN (IRNA) - Head of Qazvin Arching Federation said Esmail Ebadi and Yaser Amuie were dispatched to participate in the second round of Turkey Arching World Cup on Tuesday.

Majid Molla-Hosseini added in an interview with IRNA that Ebadi and Amuie who had also accompanied the Iranian arching teams in various international competitions

will both participate in arching camp of the international contest.

He set example of the two Qazvini arching champions silver medals in the team competitions of the 2015 Shanghai Arching Competitions.

The second round of Turkey Arching World Cup will be held from May 27-31 in Antalya, Turkey.

Iran Loses to Vietnam in Asian Women's Volleyball Championships

BEIJING (Tasnim) - Iran lost once again to Vietnam in the 18th Asian Women's Volleyball Championships in Tianjin, China, on Tuesday.

Team Melli lost to Vietnam 3-1 (25-18, 18-25, 22-25, 18-25) and is scheduled to play Kazakhstan for

7th place on Thursday.

Iran had lost to Vietnam 3-1 in the group stage.

Excluding Japan, the top three teams will participate in the World Olympic Qualification Tournament.

Former NBA Star Marbury Gets New Job in China

BEIJING (Xinhua) -- Beijing has set its mind to clear up the air and hopefully bidding for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games is expected to help speed up the process.

The Beijing government recently announced the improved air quality in the past four months and to build on it, has invited former NBA star Stephon Marbury to speak for their cause.

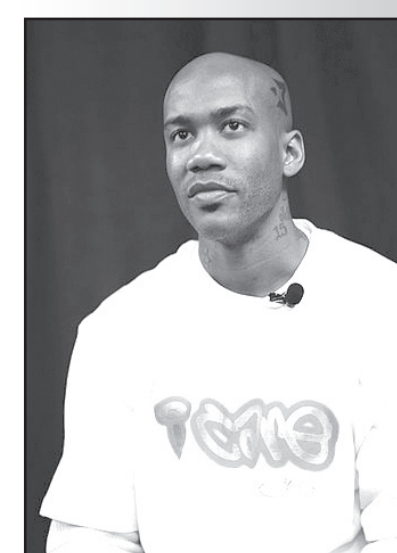
On Monday, Marbury, now a leading player in Beijing Duck, became Beijing Environment Protection Ambassador to promote a more environmental-friendly life style.

"I just basically continue to encourage people to go green, mean taking the subway, putting trash inside the right cans. All these stuffs are important to the environment," said Marbury who was spotted going to training by taking the subway.

"I believe the government here definitely take acts and take notice of trying to clear the air. So being a part of this is, anything they need me to do, I'm willing to do help," said the American who has well settled in here and is seen as a city hero after leading Beijing Duck to the third league champion.

Marbury said his home country the United States once was bothered by air pollution.

"In America, they had air problems as well in past years a long time ago and it resolved problem.



Stephon Marbury

I know it's a possibility that the air problem can change here," said the two-time NBA All-Star player.

"Often my friends ask me about air quality here in Beijing, I often tell them that it's getting better," said the 38-year-old who had his contract extended to 2017.

"I feel good, I'm used to be here, used to be a part of Beijing, so it's natural for me now, it's not like when I first came here. This is a home for me."

Last week, Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau (BMEPB) announced that the average density of PM 2.5 (airborne particles smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter) dropped by 19 percent compared with the same period last year.

Six Top FIFA Authorities Arrested Over Corruption

ZURICH (Press TV) - Six top soccer officials, suspected of receiving bribes worth millions of dollars, have been detained by Swiss police at the request of US officials.

The high-ranking officials of the world football governing body, FIFA, were arrested on Wednesday after a raid at a luxury hotel in the Swiss city of Zurich.

"The bribery suspects - representatives of sports media and sports promotion firms - are alleged to have been involved in schemes to make payments to the soccer functionaries - delegates of FIFA - ... totaling more than \$100 million," the Swiss Justice Ministry said in a Wednesday statement.

"In return, it is believed that they received media, marketing, and



The media gathers outside the Hotel Baur-au-Lac in the Swiss city of Zurich, where police arrested six FIFA officials on corruption charges

sponsorship rights in connection with soccer tournaments in Latin America," it added.

The statement said the crimes were organized in the US, and the bribes were paid via US banks.

The accusations pose a major challenge to FIFA at a time that its

head, Sepp Blatter, seeks to secure a fifth term in a Friday vote.

Blatter, however, is not involved in the recent graft case, according to FIFA spokesman Walter de Gregorio. "He is not involved at all."

De Gregorio also said that the world body will hold a press conference at 11:00 am (0900 GMT) in Zurich regarding the arrests, which would be streamed live on the FIFA website.

Moreover, FIFA announced it was seeking to make the situation clear.

"We have seen the media reports. We are seeking to clarify the situation. We will not comment at this stage," a FIFA spokeswoman told AFP following the news of the arrests.

Bolt Wins 200m, Powell Takes 100 in Rainy Ostrava

PRAGUE (Reuters) - Usain Bolt won the 200 meters in his season's best time of 20.13 seconds in rainy, cold conditions at the Ostrava Golden Spike meeting on Tuesday as he builds up for the world championships.

His Jamaican compatriot Asafa Powell claimed the 100 in 10.04 seconds but failed to match his season's best of 9.84 and the world leading 9.74 set by Justin Gatlin on May 15 in Doha.

Isiah Young of the United States finished second in both races, trail-

ing home behind Bolt in 20.35 and Powell in 10.13. American Dedic Dukes has the world leading 200 time of 19.99.

"Yes, it was a little colder than I thought it would be," said Bolt on his return to the meeting for a seventh time.

"But it's all about working on my technique, getting back into shape and I'll see what happens in the next one."

Before the race Bolt said he felt fine despite dropping out of the last day of a meeting in the Bahamas this

month. He said he felt pain in his thigh there but that had gone away.

The 28-year-old Bolt is preparing for the Beijing worlds in August where he said he wanted to be better than at the 2008 Beijing Olympics where the Jamaican won three gold medals.

Bolt is the favourite to retain his world 100 title but knows he will have to be at the top of his game and fully fit to hold off the challenge of 2004 Olympic champion Gatlin.

Czech Zuzana Hejnova won the 400m hurdles, returning after a foot injury which had kept her out

for most of last season.

Poland's Marcin Lewandowski claimed the 1,000 meter race in a world leading time of 2.17.25.

American Sharika Nelvis set a meet record of 12.55 seconds in the 100 hurdles, just missing her personal best of 12.54 set in Doha.

World record holder David Rudisha of Kenya dropped out halfway through the rarely-run 600 metres holding his right thigh, and limped off the track. The race was won by Poland's Adam Kszczot in one minute 16.02 seconds.

Federer Eases Into French Open Third Round

PARIS (AFP) - Roger Federer continued his seamless progress at the French Open on Wednesday by ousting Marcel Granollers of Spain 6-2, 7-6 (7/1), 6-3 to reach the third round.

The Swiss second seed got the job done in one hour, 47 minutes before a packed crowd on Court Suzanne Lenglen, although he was broken twice and his opponent made life tough in the second set in particular.

Federer, the champion in Paris in 2009, came through a second-

set tiebreak and eventually ran away with the third set to set up a meeting with either Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus or Damir Dzumhur of Bosnia in the last 32.

"I think it was a really difficult match. It looks like a routine match in three sets but in the stands you see I had to work hard. The second set was the key," said Federer, who is safely in the other half of the draw to Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray and reigning champion Rafael Nadal.