



FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP ROUND 16					
MONDAY, 16 OCTOBER					
COLOMBIA U-17 VS GERMANY U-17 5:00 PM	PARAGUAY U-17 VS UNITED STATES U-17 8:00 PM				
TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER					
IRAN U-17 VS MEXICO U-17 5:00 PM	FRANCE U-17 VS SPAIN U-17 5:00 PM	MALI U-17 VS IRAQ U-17 8:00 PM	ENGLAND U-17 VS JAPAN U-17 8:00 PM		
WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER					
GHANA U-17 VS NIGER U-17 5:00 PM	BRAZIL U-17 VS HONDURAS U-17 8:00 PM				

Confident Paraguay take on USA in 2nd pre-quarters

NEW DELHI, OCT 15 /- There will be little margin for error but a buoyant Paraguay will still have the chances when they lock horns with USA in a pre-quarterfinal clash of the FIFA U-17 World Cup here tomorrow. Paraguay are on a high having entered the Round of 16 with an all-win record. They have an impressive tally of scoring 10 goals in the three round robin matches, making it crystal clear that the South Americans have a potent strike force. If their mental toughness was on display in the come-from-behind win against New Zealand, Paraguay have been ruthless against Turkey and Mali in the first round. Paraguay are aware that USA, despite a loss to Colombia that may have dampened their spirit after a great start, will pose the biggest threat so far in the tournament. USA kicked off their campaign with a 4-0 win over hosts India and then saw off two-time champions Ghana in an intense battle. However, they were shocked out by desperate Colombia in a must-win game for the South Americans. Going into the second round, Paraguay have played in the tournament, USA will certainly have their task cut out and will hope their star forward and Werder Bremen target Josh Sargent finds the net. Then there is also Aki Akinola as well as Timothy Weah as options for USA. After the clash there will be a World Cup race, fans back home are looking up to this young lot to salvage pride and give the Americans something to cheer about. So, the pressure will be on USA. While Sargent has been impressive upfront, New York City FC midfielder James Sands anchored the central defense nicely, considering USA have conceded only three goals - all coming against Colombia. Chris Durkin, the D.C. United Homegrown player, has also been in excellent form.



USA: Alex Budnik, Carlos Joaquin Dos Santos, Justin Torres, Sergio Dest, Christopher Glozier, Jaylin Lindsey, James Sands, Tyler Shover, Aki Akinola, George Acosta, Taylor Booth, Christopher Durkin, Blaine Ferri, Chris Goslin, Indiana Vessilev, Ayo Akinola, Andrew Carleton, Jacobo Reyes, Bryan Reynolds, Joshua Sargent, Tim Weah. PARAGUAY: Diego Huesos, Jesus Rolon, Roberto Fernandez, Pedro Alvarez, Alexis Duarte, Brilon Ojeda, Antonio Galeano, Steven Gomez, Fernando Rodriguez, Leo Sanchez, Angel Roa, Marcelo Rolon, Victor Vilasanti, Luis Zarate, Anibal Vega, Fernando Corado, Blas Armoa, Jonathan Martinez, Giovanni Bogado, Alan Rodriguez. (PTI) Match starts 5pm IST.

TEAMS (FROM):

USA: Alex Budnik, Carlos Joaquin Dos Santos, Justin Torres, Sergio Dest, Christopher Glozier, Jaylin Lindsey, James Sands, Tyler Shover, Aki Akinola, George Acosta, Taylor Booth, Christopher Durkin, Blaine Ferri, Chris Goslin, Indiana Vessilev, Ayo Akinola, Andrew Carleton, Jacobo Reyes, Bryan Reynolds, Joshua Sargent, Tim Weah. PARAGUAY: Diego Huesos, Jesus Rolon, Roberto Fernandez, Pedro Alvarez, Alexis Duarte, Brilon Ojeda, Antonio Galeano, Steven Gomez, Fernando Rodriguez, Leo Sanchez, Angel Roa, Marcelo Rolon, Victor Vilasanti, Luis Zarate, Anibal Vega, Fernando Corado, Blas Armoa, Jonathan Martinez, Giovanni Bogado, Alan Rodriguez. (PTI) Match starts 5pm IST.

India thrash Pakistan 3-1 to top Pool A

DHAKA, OCT 15 /- Favourites India continued their winning momentum defeating arch-rivals Pakistan 3-1 in a pool encounter of the 10th men's Asia Cup hockey tournament, here today. After two easy wins against Japan (5-1) and hosts Bangladesh (7-0), as expected India had a relatively tough outing against Pakistan but managed to maintain their all-win record. India controlled the proceedings for the better part of the match, barring the final quarter when Pakistan, trailing 0-3, came hard on the Indian defence in search of goals. But at the end of the day, the Indians came out superior and continued their recent domination over Pakistan, that includes back-to-back victories in the Hockey World League Semi-Final in London earlier this year. Chinglensana Singh (17th minute), Ramandeep Singh (44th) and Harmanpreet Singh (45th) scored the goals for India, while Pakistan lone strike came from the stick of Ali Shan in the 49th minute. By virtue of this win, India finished on top of Pool A with nine points from three games while Pakistan secured the second spot with four points. Both India and Pakistan have managed to secure their place in the round-robin Super A stage of the tournament. Even though Japan defeated Bangladesh 3-1 earlier in the day, the victory was not for them to enter the Super A stage as they were behind Pakistan on goal difference. Contrary to the win, Pakistan had the first real scoring chance when they earned their first penalty corner but they were off target. The Indians came out hard in the second quarter and took the lead in the 17th minute through Chinglensana, who slammed home after receiving a fine pass from Akashdeep Singh, who was operating in the right. Three minutes later, Gurjant Singh's reverse hit from the right flank was just off target. (PTI)



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Germany, Colombia face off in first pre-quarterfinal clash

GAME NOTES

Mohun Bagan lift Governor's Gold Cup for 10th time

GANGTOK, OCT 15 /- Maiden heavyweights Mohun Bagan today won the 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament for the 10th time by defeating Partha Chakra by a narrow 1-0 margin. In the final match played at Patil Stadium, Mohun Bagan's striker GA Kramah scored the lone goal in the seventh minute. Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling attended the final and gave away trophies and cash prize to winners and the runner-up (PTI)

Seven arrested for black marketing FIFA U-17 WC tickets

KOLKATA, OCT 15 /- Police today arrested seven persons including three volunteers of the FIFA U-17 World Cup from near the Salt Lake Stadium in Bidhanagar area here, when matches were in progress. Acting on a tip off, the Bidhanagar police nabbed all the seven when they were busy selling tickets against high prices. Bidhanagar Police Commissionerate sources said. Some of the arrested were also allegedly found in an inebriated state, the sources added. This is first such instance in Kolkata since the beginning of FIFA U-17 World Cup on October 8 in the city where arrests were made for black marketing tickets of this international event. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, OCT 15 /- The quest to enhance their reputation in football's biggest talent-hunt competition will face a stern examination when Germany and Colombia face off in the first FIFA U-17 World Cup pre-quarterfinal here on Monday. To use the cliché, the match-up will again pit Latino flair against Europe's workman-like approach. Guardian the citadel could prove to be key as both the teams are expected to enter the game with a mindset to outdo each other in attack. An intense battle is on the cards at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium as Colombia and Germany have the level of quality, experience and know-how. A strong and reliable defence will allow the forward line to adopt an offensive strategy right from the outset and put pressure on the opponents. It is a contest between a well-oiled European side and a South American team that has gotten better with every match in this tournament. A four-time world champion and a force to reckon with in international football for long, Germany's record in this tournament is not as awe-inspiring. They have made it to the semi-finals of the tournament four times and have played



Germany are one of the favourites for the FIFA U-17 World Cup title

more matches (44) than any other European side. Their best performance came in 1985 when they were runners-up. For a nation appearing in its 10th finals, Germany would certainly want to win the silverware. Colombia are undoubtedly one of the bigger footballing nations in South America to have never won a world title. This is their sixth finals appearance and their best performance till date came in 2009 when they finished third after losing to Spain 0-1 in the semi-finals. Looking at the way they improved

with each outing, the Colombians seem determined to break the title drought this time around. The Germans bounced back in style after their defeat to Iran - the biggest upset of the tournament so far - and will surely fancy their chances in the Round of 16 clash. Both recorded two wins in the round robin stage, lost one each and scored five times in the three first round matches, clearly showing that there is little to differentiate between the two sides. Their only previous encounter at this level came at the 2007 edition in

Korea Republic, which ended in a thrilling 3-2 draw. The stakes are much higher this time around, though, as the winner will lose their dream alive while the loser heads home. Han Sargent SV forward Jann-Fiete Arp, who scored in the side's win in the last game, will certainly be the man to watch out for upfront. According to coach Christian Wuck, who has been associated with the German Football Association since 2012 working with various junior sides, this team has the best lot of young players he has managed and he expects them to go all the way in the finals. Even though they posted a 3-1 victory over Guinea, Germany were not able to win the possession battle against an opponent that is inferior to them, and they must have worked on it heading into the big-ticket game. As far as Colombia are concerned, the focus will be on Juan Penaloza, who contributed immensely to his side's progress to the pre-quarterfinals with goals as well as assists. Colombia had lost to Ghana 0-1 in their opening encounter before getting full points against India with a narrow 2-1 win, and then came the drubbing of USA, which has boosted their confidence.

TEAMS (FROM)

GERMANY: Luca Plogmann, Alexander Nitzl, Pascal Hackethal, Dominik Becker, Jan Bolter, Noah Aufer, Shaverdi Catin, Eric Majstroshek, Jan-Fiete Arp, Elias Aouchaboka, Nicolas Kuehn, Luis Klatt, Dennis Jastrzembksi, Yannik Keitel, Kilian Ludewig, Lars Mol, Maurice Malone, John Yaboh, Jessic Ngankam, Juan Bisseck and Marian Prias. COLOMBIA: Nicolas Gomez, Andres Cifuentes, Guillermo Togue, Christian Andrade, Thomas Gutierrez, Andres Perea, Leandro Campaz, Luis Lopez, Santiago Barrero, Brayam Gomez, Juan Penaloza, Kevin Mier, Robert Mejia, Yadir Meneses, Gustavo Carvajal, Fabian Angel, Deiber Calcedo, Deyman Cortes, Juan Vidal, Etilso Martinez, Daniel Melo. (PTI) Match starts 5pm IST.

Impressed FIFA official tells India to focus on future

KOLKATA, OCT 15 /- India may have made a group stage exit in the Under-17 World Cup but their spirited show has impressed FIFA head of coaching and player development, Branimir Ujevic, who urged them to learn from mistakes and focus on the future. Having blanked 0-3 by USA in their U-17 World Cup opener, India put up an impressive display to equalise against Colombia, but conceded in the very next minute to dash hopes of securing their first point in a FIFA tournament. "It was obvious that they played adaptive game in the first match but they were amazing against Colombia. They were very organised, tactically and physically well-prepared,"

Ujevic told reporters in a group league review news conference at the Salt Lake Stadium. "They created a few scoring chances and were so enthusiastic and emotional jumping in joy after scoring the goal that they forgot to protect the goal in the next Colombian attack. 'Atmosphere was incredible. I hope they will learn a lot from this type of games otherwise it's difficult to take a look into the future.' "I give credit to the Indian people. For some games while going to stadium, I felt like I'm coming to Santiago, Old Trafford because of so many enthusiastic people who put me really enjoy football," he added. Ujevic was particularly impressed with India's only goalscorer Jeetson Singh and custodian Dheeraj Singh,

who was outstanding with his bold saves under the bar. "In Indian team, you have two very nice midfield players and also the goalkeeper. The guy (Jeetson) who is just 16 years old and put his footprint in history of Indian football with his first ever goal for India. He's only 16 and that would stay well in history books forever. "This was the best possible learning tool for India U-17 team. Obviously, physically and tactically, they were well prepared with the big influence of Indian coach (Luis Norton de Matos). "Talking about individual approach, there were over excitement during games... There's a lot of space to improve. They deserve this World Cup. They really showed a great commitment. "In his first FIFA tour-

nam as head of technical staff group, Ujevic said. "It's obvious from the group stage that teams had come well prepared. "Teams showed different styles of play, depending on their confederation. "Based on technical aspects, we could say the best 16 teams qualified for knock-out round. It would be interesting to see how they're prepared for the knockout stage. It's a very very interesting line-up in round 16." "In general, there has been a plenty of enjoyable matches during group stage. It's really fantastic football atmosphere, outstanding individual players," he said summing up his experience so far. He also gave credit to the coaches and refused to elaborate much on the negative

sides, saying such things were normal in a developmental tournaments. "The technical stuff they adapted going ahead was interesting. They were doing some interesting changes during the games. As tournament goes to the final round I hope it will be much more better and excitement. "You have always some positive and non-positive impacts in a developmental tournament. Here you're talking about 16 year old boys... They were doing some amazing things as well as incredible individual mistakes, it's all part of the development. "We should give them an opportunity to grow as footballers. We have to arrange everything for the next tournament and make them ready for future," he concluded.