

Top soccer official joins in criticizing referees

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ing marks in any previous World Cup. And there's still 12 matches remaining.

Portugal captain Luis Figo was lucky to escape ejection, getting a yellow card for a skirmish with Mark van Bommel when TV replays clearly showed him head-butting the Dutch player in the 58th minute - a direct red card offense.

FIFA communications director Markus Sieglar said Monday that the disciplinary committee would not review the incident because Ivanov had taken action, on the field, on advice from his linesman.

Figo "was sanctioned immediately by the referee," he said. "The referee's report came in last night and is being analyzed by the relevant people. But it is very unlikely anything will happen as he has been sanctioned already on the spot."

"It is only where there is a clear disciplinary issue which has not been acted upon by the referee that the (disciplinary) committee can look at it," Sieglar said.

Sieglar refused to expand on Blatter's stinging criticism of Ivanov's performance, saying - in German - "you might have seen the FIFA president

made a comment. There is nothing more to add."

Ivanov set the tone with some early cautions for incidents that would have been overlooked in most league competitions.

And once Portugal scored the only goal in the 23rd minute-winner from Maniche, Ivanov struggled to deal with mounting tension and the loss of sportsmanship on both sides.

"This was a game of emotion, with exceptional drama in the last instant, with a deserved winner," Blatter said. "But it was a great show with intervention by the referee that was not consistent, and had a lack of fair play by some players."

The FIFA referees committee will meet Wednesday to decide which officials stay after the second round.

Already they're likely to be without experienced English referee Graham Poll, who issued three yellow cards to the same Croatia player - two yellow cards should immediately be followed by a red. That technical error could have resulted in a first-round match with Australia being replayed.

Markus Merk, an early favorite to handle the final if

host Germany does not make it, also dented his chances with a highly criticized performance in the Brazil-Australia first-round match.

Ivanov's chances of more appointments appear remote. Responding to questions about referees adhering to instructions from FIFA and not being allowed enough discretion, Sieglar reiterated earlier comments.

"It's not about instructions being given," he said. "They're reiterated because this is the biggest platform to show the consistent application of the laws of the game."

After the first round,

Sieglar said the World Cup had been wide open, with offensive flair, and rejected the notion that the extraordinarily high number of cautions was a paradox.

"You could say if the referees were not active, it could have turned out into a more unfair or dirty tournament," he said. "I'm convinced that because the referee is applying rules consistently and the players have been warned from the beginning, the tournament has been 'quite fair.'"

EASY SLIDER

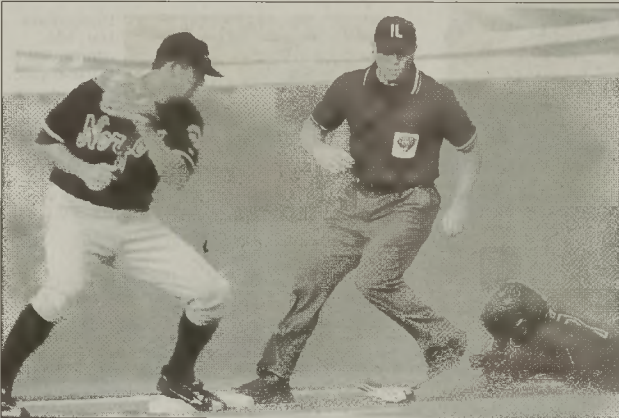


PHOTO: CURTIS WILSON

Charlotte Knights outfielder Jerry Owens slides head-first into second base in the Knights win Sunday against Norfolk. Charlotte continues to lead the International League Southern Division and have the best record overall in the league.

Jackson State coach happy top player will be back on campus

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"Returning to college was not a bad thing. I was open-minded about returning to school. I wanted to get my name out there so people know me. It did everything I wanted to do."

Only two underclassmen in Southwestern Athletic Conference history have been drafted - Larry Wright of Grambling State and Frank Sanders of Southern, in the nine-round drafts of the 1970s. Three others went unselected.

Johnson worked out for the Milwaukee Bucks because of NCAA rules, which say underclassmen who return to school must pay back pro teams for workout-related expenses of airfare, hotels and meals.

"Since I had a good junior season, I felt it was the right time to test the waters and see where I stood," Johnson said. "The timing was right. My statistics opened up some eyes. By throwing my name in the hat, I didn't lose anything."

Crabs in barrel take turns pulling at former Shaw coach

Crabs in a barrel! We - and most of us know who "we" are - are quite familiar with the saying. Put a bunch of crabs in a barrel, and every time one tries to climb out, the others pull it back down. That's how folks at Shaw University are acting ever since former football coach Deondri Clark accepted the head job at Fort Valley State last week.



BONITTA BEST
Bonitta Best is sports editor at The Triangle Tribune in Durham.

that a graduate assistant at Michigan State and Central Michigan. So no, he wasn't begging for bread.

Besides, when Clark was named interim head coach, Shaw needed him at the time to divert the embarrassment the fired Ruffin had caused for his "shenanigans."



Clark The media went from "Did Ruffin do that?" to "Who is this Clark guy?"

Second, who gives a six month's notice - for anything?

Then there was this comment from a caller who said any athlete playing for Clark should be wary since he applies for every job opening available. When asked how many jobs, the caller replied sheepishly, "There was Florida A&M."

Clark was a finalist for the Rattlers job last year but lost out to Rubin Carter. Still, two interviews in four years is not exactly Larry Brown.

Since when does a coach owe a university a lifetime commitment? HBCU folks! They think if they throw a dog a bone, he won't run off to the house down the street offering steak.

The biggest myth in black college football is that alumnus Willie Gary built Shaw. True, Gary does give six-figure-dollar checks during homecoming, but I'll bet a lifetime supply of Snickers that none of that money ever visited the athletic department, let alone took up residence.

Last year, Gary gave \$50,000 to the football program, the first time in close to three years Clark had a decent recruiting budget. One year, he told me, \$9,000 was his entire budget. Clark's biggest mistake was his most shining moment - winning a CIAA football championship. After that, no matter how much he pleaded poverty, he was met with the same response, "You won a championship, so why do you need more?"

Another crab, uh coach, insinuated that Clark had won with Ruffin's players, and when it came time to actually recruit, he skedaddled.

Hmm, let's see: no recruiting money - no recruits - no replenishment. Who wouldn't leave?

Being cheap is one thing, being cheap and crabby is another.

Bonitta Best is sports editor at The Triangle Tribune in Durham.

Brock looks to move forward

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can be made. Brock is ranked third in the IBF, his best among the three organizations.

"I don't know how this one will go," Brock said. "I guess my promoter (Main Events) is going to do what's most logical. If the pay is fair we can get a title shot."

Brock contends Ibragimov's defense-first, last and always style helped turn Saturday's

bout into a yawner. Brock fought cautiously as well, although he provided enough action to seize a comfortable lead on the judges' scorecards.

"It was a lackluster, uneventful fight," he said. "The problem with this dude is he doesn't have any inside game. He's a stick and mover. If I had to do it all over, I would've looked for somebody else."



9th Annual Titus L. Ivory, Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament

August 4, 2006

Birkdale Golf Course, Huntersville, NC



Tournament Information

- Registration: 8:00 a.m.
- Shotgun Start: 9:00 a.m.
- Format: Captain's Choice
- Register as an individual or as a team
- Captains are responsible for registering teams and submitting fees and applications
- Teams consist of (1) Captain and (3) other players
- Mulligans available for \$5 each

Registration includes:

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- Range balls
- Golf Cart rental for the team
- Signature event golf shirt
- Continental breakfast
- Lunch delivered to you during the tournament
- Awards dinner in air conditioned Pavilion following the tournament
- Contests
 - Hole in one
 - Longest Drive
 - Closest to the Pin
- Goodie Bag
- Program Booklet
- Door Prizes and Giveaways

Location:
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16500 Birkdale Commons Parkway
Huntersville, NC 28078
www.birkdale.com

In Memory of Titus L. Ivory, Sr.

Titus L. Ivory, Sr. demonstrated the principles of character development promoted by the H.L. McCrorey Family YMCA. His illustration of caring, responsibility, faith, honesty, and respect was manifested in the life he led and the legacy that remains. Titus' commitment to God, family, career, community, brotherhood and the uplifting of his fellow man, is a true testimony of his character.

Thank you for taking the time to join us in fellowship and remembrance of our dear friend and staunch supporter.

Mission

To put Christian principles into action through programs that build character and body for all.

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