

FIVE OTHER REASONS NOT TO GO TO THE WORLD CUP

THE COACH IS A LANGER



Who can remember now the whys and the whatnots of this sad episode involving Roy Keane? Of course, we all can, and in future years political parties will be formed by opposition viewpoints. Later became a musical.

THE COACH IS A LANGER PART II



For Slovenia's first World Cup they would surely need their d most influential player. Zlatko Zahovcic's barney with his coach was overshadowed by Keane's but Slovenia fared worse, losing all three group games.

POLITICAL STANCE



Johann Cruyff claimed he boycotted the 1978 World Cup because he opposed the human rights record of the junta led by General Jorge Videla.

UNACCEPTABLE HAIR



Redondo was dropped by Argentina coach Daniel Passarella for the 1998 World Cup after refusing to visit a barber. Number of players Passarella captained to win the 1978 tournament who had shoulder-length hair: 7

I HATE OUR FANS



Talismanic German midfielder Stefan Effenberg did reach USA 94 but got his marching orders from Berti Vogts for giving the German supporters the finger. He never played with Germany again.

FOUR years ago it was.

Roy was at home walking Triggs, Mick McCarthy's World Cup plans lay in ruins and the children of Ireland were weeping into their soup.

Roy Keane's departure from Saipan was an event that knocked the escalating nuclear dispute between India and Pakistan off the front page of the Indian Times.

This time around, there is nothing to compare to the Mayfield man's story.

However, as always, there have been one or two tantrums.

The French camp lost their top scorer from the qualifiers, Djibril Cisse, on Wednesday night after he broke his leg against China.

They also came close to losing their goalkeeper from the qualifiers last week.

Grégory Coupet, who has helped Lyon to unprecedented success in the French League in recent years, was expected to hold on to the number one jersey after wearing it for most of the qualification series.

But coach Raymond Domenech has decided that the more experienced national custodian Fabien Barthez will start at the World Cup.

Fairly fuming up to this point, the 33-year-old keeper was tipped over the edge (not literally) while ascending a glacier last week.

Something of a tradition among recent French World Cup squads, climbing the Grande Motte glacier is seen as a good team-bonding exercise.

Not so this time.

Coupet, already smarting at being dropped, was furious after the Marseille goalkeeper was allowed to abandon the team's ascent of the glacier after complaining of a sore calf muscle.

At the time, Barthez was roped to the defenders Eric Abidal and Lilian Thuram, together with a member of the backroom staff, and Domenech agreed to allow him to descend to the team's hotel alone fearing that the crampons he was wearing might aggravate the injury.

The rest of the squad completed the climb but, having returned to their mountain refuge at 3,000m for lunch, Coupet made his feelings clear.

The 33-year-old complained that Barthez had previously been training without mentioning his sore left calf and implied that the former Manchester United keeper was receiving special treatment.

The row escalated with Coupet returning to the squad's four-star hotel, packing his bags and driving away from the retreat with his wife and children. He was back some 45 minutes later, having been called on his mobile by the fitness coach Robert Duverne and his club chair-



A freeze in relations: Gregory Coupet and Raymond Domenech are not on speaking terms since glacier incident.

Not a Fab time for Coupet

It's my ball and I'm going home... World Cup tantrums alive and well

quickly and we're getting on with it. He gave me an explanation which I accepted and, as far as I'm concerned, it's water under the bridge now. He's a great goalkeeper and the incident's behind us."

France would have been unable to replace Coupet had he refused to return because, under Fifa's rules, replacements can only be called up to the 23-man squad due to injury. Coupet's discontent has been simmering since and the two keepers have barely exchanged a word since.

The Grand Motte glacier, due to global warming, is expected to melt within the next 50 years.

Quote of the Day

"What is fat?"

- Ronaldo answers journalists with there 'I predict a diet' headlines at a Brazilian press conference.

Fans to take risk on black market

ENGLAND fans were today taking a risk of being turned away from tomorrow's World Cup clash with Paraguay as they picked up tickets on the black market.

Supporters in Frankfurt said there were plenty of tickets available at more than 10 times face value and they were changing hands.

Neil Salisbury, 38, an engineer from Burnley, said: "There are British touts here with plenty of tickets but they want €500 for a ticket with a face value of €35.

"The danger is that people buy them but then either find out that they are fake or that they get turned away at the stadium because the name on the ticket does not match their passports. That's a lot of money to spend not to get in."

Mr Salisbury added: "If thousands of fans turn up with tickets they've bought on the black market, I think they'll have to let them in, won't they?"

He was accompanied by friends Ross Dixon, 39, a draughtsman from Ealing, west London, and Scott Campbell, 37, and Doug King, 40, originally from Portsmouth but now living in Perth, Western Australia. They all agreed that if they could not get into the match, they would watch it on big screens set up in the middle of the River Main.

"The important thing is to go where the atmosphere is," said Mr Campbell, a croupier.

Andrew Davies, 42, from Moseley, Birmingham, who delivers cars for a living, said: "I'm prepared to pay €70 or €80 for a €35 ticket, no more.

"My hopes of getting one are fading, but prices could fall as kick-off time nears.

"I'll probably go to the stadium two hours before kick-off for one last try and if I can't get in, I'll watch it on the big screen."

...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...

TOGO WHERE NO KOREAN JOURNALIST HAS GONE BEFORE

CERTAIN GAA coaches spring to mind now that Togo coach Otto Pfister has ushered in the latest round of World Cup paranoia.

According to the African side's midfielder Junior Senaya, the coach has told the team that if they talk to reporters from their group rivals South Korea they will be dropped from the World Cup.

"(Pfister) will not let us



KOREANS: Stay away from Togans.

Senaya told a Korean paper.

Senaya also said the coach told his players not to talk to Japanese

play in the games if we answer your questions.

I want to play in the match and he said there are no exceptions."

or Chinese people just in case they were pretending to be from Korea.

We're not exactly sure what Pfister is trying to hide from the Korean media. Togo is one of the least known teams in the tournament.

The coach himself has said that he hardly knows a lot of his players.

You would think that reading his players' quotes in the Korean papers would help him get to know his players a bit more.

NEPOTISMIC

Serbia and Montenegro arrived in Germany to a warm welcome — but with only 22 men after coach Ilija Petkovic's son Dusan decided not to travel.

Petkovic Jr took the decision "to protect my father" from claims of nepotism and no replacement will be called up.

The Serbian media were unhappy that a player who did not feature in qualification had replaced Mirko Vucinic, the talented forward, who injured knee liga-

ments in an U21 European Championship match at the end of May.

Petkovic, son of coach Ilija Petkovic, would not have been the only son of a coach to take part in the World Cup in Germany — Niko Kranjcar has been selected by his father, Nico, for Croatia, though the latter has far more international pedigree.

WORLD CUP TEASER

What club did Alan Ball play for when England won in 1966?

Answer tomorrow.

