

AROUND THE WORLD

Razov is on fire at Ferrol

U.S. ABROAD. Ante Razov needed only 17 minutes to prove his worth to Racing Ferrol, scoring in his debut for the Spanish Second Division club, and the U.S. international has remained on fire ever since.

The former Los Angeles Galaxy and Chicago Fire striker took his tally to five goals in six games in Spain with a second-half hat trick in Ferrol's 5-0 win at Compostela.

More important, the win extended Ferrol's unbeaten streak to six games since Razov's arrival and moved it from 20th to 17th place and out of the relegation zone with a game in hand.

Razov completed a second-half onslaught during which Ferrol scored five goals in 35 minutes. He struck in the 57th, 68th and 86th minutes.

Defensive mistakes cost Mexico

HEXAGONAL. Mexico's troubles continued when it lost to Colombia, 3-2, in an international friendly in Los Angeles, extending its winless streak to five games under embattled coach Enrique Meza.

The Tri appeared headed to an easy victory when Claudio Suarez and Luis Hernandez scored in the first 14 minutes, but Colombia took advantage of three defensive mistakes to win the first game of its North American tour.

"This will force us to work harder to improve our performance on the field," said Suarez, who moved into second place on the all-time caps list with 151. "Unfortunately, the results we hoped for in the recent games have been negative. We played better [against Colombia], but errors cost us the game."

In other Hexagonal warmups, former Dallas Burn and Miami Fusion striker Mickey Trotman scored both goals in Trinidad & Tobago's 2-0 win over Grenada, and New England Revolution striker William Sunning scored in Costa Rica's 3-1 victory over Colombian champion America Cali.



Paraguayan star Jose Luis Chilavert's bid to return to the World Cup finals suffered a setback when Coach Sergio Markarian (left) quit.

Markarian quits over remark

PARAGUAY. Uruguayan Sergio Markarian, who has led Paraguay to the brink of a second successive World Cup appearance, quit as national team coach following a verbal attack from a leading Paraguayan soccer federation (AFP) official.

"There's no other way out," Markarian said after AFP vice president Antonio Colman Rodriguez's attack on the coach following Markarian's decision to take control of the Paraguay team competing in the South American under-20 championship in Ecuador.

"Markarian talks too much," said Rodriguez. "According to his concepts, if we draw, it is thanks to God, and if we win, it is thanks to him."

Paraguay is third in the South American World Cup qualifying tournament after 10 of 18 games.

The top four teams qualify for the finals. The fifth-place team will play off against the winner of the Oceania region.