



Carlos Queiroz praises Iranian youngsters after shining against Guam

TEHRANTIMES Sport Desk TEHRAN — Iran coach Carlos Queiroz lauded his young players after a 6-0 victory over Guam in the 2018 FIFA World Cup/2019 AFC Asian Cup joint-qualifier.

The Portuguese coach fielded a number of young players in the match against Group D leader on Thursday.

"First, I would like to thank my players who did well against Guam. Also, I thank those one who came to the stadium to support Team Melli from the bottom of my heart. I am sure they don't regret over attending the match since they watched a wonderful performance," Queiroz said in the post match news conference.

"I also congratulate Guam football team. They had a difficult job against us and did their best but Iran had just one goal and it was winning three points.

"I believe in my young players and I am sure that they can show better performance in the future. Now, it's time to enjoy our victory. We will have to meet India in the next few days.

"Just 32 countries will advance to the World Cup out of 240 countries. To book a place in the World Cup is not like a walk in the park. We have a tough job ahead of us.

"I love Team Melli, the players and the fans. I just expect respect. We need to work together to advance to the World Cup. It is the most important objective of the Iranian people," the former Real Madrid coach added.

Branko Branko: I've rejected offers to remain at Persepolis

TEHRANTIMES Sport Desk Persepolis Croatian coach Branko Ivankovic believes that financial issues will affect his team's technical performance but insisted that he stays loyal despite receiving a number of offers.

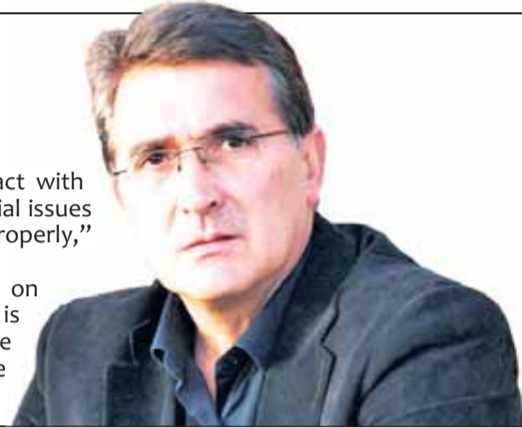
"In the first two weeks, the referees' mistakes went against us and back to back defeats put us in crisis. But the

win against Foolad in the fifth round of Iran Pro League gave us a lot of confidence and I hope we can continue our way," Ivankovic told reporters.

"The players have not received their salaries and neither do I. This situation will definitely affect the technical performance of the team. I have rejected two offers from the other

clubs since I'm under contract with Persepolis but if these financial issues continue I can't do my job properly," Branko added.

Persepolis, who will take on Saipa on September 16th, is currently in the 14th place with just four points from five games.



Barca sporting director: Lionel Messi will never be sold



Barcelona sporting director Robert Fernandez insists the club will never sell Lionel Messi - not least because they ever be able to find a replacement.

When asked if there was ever a chance Barca could sell Messi, Fernandez replied in clear and emphatic terms.

"No. He'll play here for a lifetime," Fernandez told Mundo Deportivo.

"Unfortunately he won't play forever but there's still a lot of great Messi left. There's many years of football and he's such a smart player.

"Logically as people get older they lose things but he is smart enough to always have extraordinary performances. He has that gift."

Fernandez, who was named to the post of sporting director after Josep Maria Bartomeu won the summer's presidential election, admitted the club would never see another

player like the Argentine.

"It's impossible to find another one like Messi. What he's done, no one has ever done before," he added. "Look at the statistics, the goals, the trophies, the appearances... then you realise it's impossible.

"He seems cheerful, calm. When you don't know a person and you look from a distance, you use their performances as a guide. When you're around him, it's even better.

"You have to know when and where to run with the ball. We're talking about a player in an extraordinary category. There are players you have to tell what to do and what not to do.

"And then there is Messi. He has to do what he has to do.

"The trident [Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar] has a long future. They're all of a good age."

(Source: FootballEspana)

Bayern Munich 'turned down huge offer for Thomas Muller'



Bayern Munich president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge says he turned down an extremely lucrative offer for forward Thomas Muller this summer, although did not disclose details on where the bid came from.

With both Manchester United and Real Madrid linked with the player, the Bundesliga champions refused to sell Muller during the transfer window but Rummenigge revealed there had been a hefty sum on the table at one point.

"I'm talking about figures which were very high indeed," he said. "If I were a bank manager then I would have had to accept it.

"But as a football club we allowed ourselves to close the door on it, and this door is remaining closed. I can promise that to everybody.

"But one thing is for certain, in view of the increased television money in England things are not go-

ing to get any easier for Bayern in future."

That influx of money from next season is set to make the Premier League even more enticing when it comes to signing the top players in future.

However, Rummenigge has praised English clubs for the way they are being run, saying their potential success is not going to be down to money alone but rather how they have invested it.

"I've taken a look at Manchester City's youth academy and all I can say is it doesn't get any better than that," Rummenigge told the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper.

"I have also visited Tottenham's, Arsenal's and Chelsea's and it's the same wherever you go.

"I can tell you that the English are going all out, also in terms of youth development."

(Source: PA Sport)

FOOTBALL

Germany coach Joachim Low: Premier League spending is ruining young English talent

World Cup winning coach Joachim Low believes the wealth of the Premier League is undermining English hopes of developing a successful generation of homegrown talent.

Indeed, the Germany boss believes the influx of television money into English football is actually only benefitting foreign clubs, especially German ones - as they receive high transfer fees for their stars, money that is then reinvested into youth systems and developing the next wave of talent.

Wolfsburg, for example, received £54 million from Manchester City for Kevin de Bruyne in the summer transfer window, going on to spend a portion of the proceeds from that on Schalke midfielder Julian Draxler and Bayern Munich defender Dante. That left the rest of the windfall to be invested in the club's infrastructure - the youth operation included.

"Premier League clubs are now paying three times what they used to," Low said, according to the Daily Mail. "The good thing is that money is now being ploughed back into the Bundesliga.

"That helps make the German national team stronger because in the last few years £100m has been put back into youth development.

"If used sensibly and done the right way then that will work wonders for German football.

"That money has been used to make the standard of young players better. It makes sense to raise your own young players and give them an opportunity."

With expensive foreign talent being imported into the Premier League on a regular basis, the opportunities for young Englishman to play at the highest level are also being restricted. That further stunts their development, Low believes - citing that as a contributory reason why Germany were able to win the World Cup last summer as England failed to escape their group.

"The English will have to face up to the fact that their young players don't get the minutes for their clubs," Low added. "That is why the English national team haven't set the world alight in major championships, have they?"

English Football Association chairman Greg Dyke has previously pledged to change the homegrown rules in the Premier League, increasing the quota from eight to 12 players in each Premier League squad in order to address some of the issues alluded to by Low. (Source: Eurosport)



Bayern CEO: German sides need new TV deal to stop losing best players

Bayern Munich CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge on Friday called for higher revenues from broadcasting rights for Bundesliga clubs in order to be able to keep up with the spending power of the English Premier League.

Rummenigge said while the current rights deal for the Bundesliga brings in a total of about €500 million per season, the next deal to be negotiated should ideally top €1bn.

"It would be nice if the DFL (German football league) supported by the Bundesliga could turn the €500m into a €1.x bn deal," Rummenigge told the Sueddeutsche newspaper.

The German annual figure is a fraction of the £1.7 bn that English Premier League clubs will net per season from broadcasters Sky and BT under a new contract running between 2016 and 2019.

"This new English contract will dominate the market even more than today," Rummenigge added. "I already know what will happen next summer."

Rummenigge, a former forward who also heads the European Club Association (ECA), urged a similar competition among broadcasters in Germany that would send the rights revenues soaring.

But he warned that under current conditions the Bundesliga would continue seeing some of its best players sold to richer English clubs.

"We have just seen the tip of the iceberg. The transfer tsunami will increase in strength and height," Rummenigge warned with the Bundesliga losing marquee players - including Bastian Schweinsteiger and Kevin De Bruyne - to Premier League clubs offering far higher salaries this season.

"I am specifically concerned about our league's competitiveness in the Champions League and Europa League," he added.

The transfer of Bayern Munich's talismanic midfielder Schweinsteiger to Manchester United was worth a reported €17m euros.

Wolfsburg's De Bruyne joined Manchester City for a reported €75m - a German record - while South Korea forward Son Heung-min, another big Bundesliga name, moved from Bayer Leverkusen to Tottenham Hotspur for €30m.

Manchester United's capture of teenage forward Anthony Martial from Monaco for £36m (€55m), labelled a panic-buy by sections of the British media, ensured Premier League clubs racked up a record spend of 870 million pounds in the transfer window that closed on Tuesday.

Rummenigge was also in favour for a shorter summer transfer window that should end before the season started.

"I would consider it sufficient if the transfer period lasted eight weeks and ended on July 31. The market should shut before the leagues start," he said. (Source: Reuters)

INSTAGRAM



robinvanpersie Good luck Clarence Seedorf with the Laureus All Stars vs Real Madrid Legends tomorrow in the Kick Off For Good Charity Match @ The AFAS stadium in Alkmaar.



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cristiano Love you both