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CHICAGO RIOT DROPS FINALE, 18-12, TO MISSOURI

Riot's Radoncic nets hat trick, Richey surpasses 900 career saves to cap off Chicago's inaugural season

The Chicago Riot fell to the third-place Missouri Comets, 18-12, on Sunday to wrap up its inaugural Major Indoor Soccer League season at the Independence Events Center.

In a losing effort, Riot scoring leader Bato Radoncic tallied three goals and an assist, and goalkeeper Jeff Richey made 20 saves to surpass 900 for his career. Richey now has 904 career saves.

Chicago overcame a 10-2 halftime deficit to tie the score at 10-10 through three quarters. But the Comets pieced together another 8-0 run to seal the victory, with two of Missouri's final scores coming when the Riot had a sixth attacker on the field. "We were down, 10-2, and the boys came back and fought tonight," Riot Head Coach Jeff Kraft said. "I hate pulling the 'keeper, and we got burned in the end. But I'm proud of the boys. And give the Comets credit, they stepped up and could be going to the playoffs. They're peaking at the right time."

The Riot wraps up its first MISL season with a 5-15 mark, while the third-place Comets improve to 8-11 as they attempt to secure the third and final playoff spot. MISL scoring leader Byron Alvarez led the way for Missouri on Sunday with four goals and an assist. The Comets got on the board first when Alvarez netted a goal at the 9:10 mark of the first quarter for a 2-0 lead. Leo Gibson had the deep send to midfield, and the Riot's Eric Lukin attempted to cut in front of Gibson's pass. But Alvarez had some space and shot the ball over Richey. The Riot responded on a restart opportunity as Miodrag "Miki" Djerisilo tallied the equalizer at the 13:19 mark of the first quarter to tie the score at 2-2. Lukin drew a foul on the right side, and Novica "Novi" Marojevic spotted Djerisilo inside the three-point arc.

At the 2:55 mark of the second quarter, Alvarez struck again as he redirected Brian Harris's cross from the right side to gain the 4-2 lead. Then at 8:50, Alvarez notched a first-half hat trick to give Missouri a 6-2 lead as the Riot defense could not clear the ball on a couple of occasions close to the box. The Comets extended their lead to 8-2 with a Mirsad Dzilic goal at the 11:13 mark of the second quarter. Harris had the long outlet pass and Dzilic had a step on the Riot's Brandon Corday, took a shot near left post and slotted the ball into the back of the net past Richey. Then Jamar Beasley pushed the Comets' run to 8-0 with a goal at the 14:20 mark to take a 10-2 lead into halftime.

The Riot was energized to start the second half, and Alex Megson tallied a goal for Chicago at the 42-second mark of the third quarter to cut Missouri's lead to 10-4. Chicago defender Will Kletzien and Richey worked on the defensive end to get the ball out of harm's way and the Riot pushed forward, with Radoncic assisting Megson's close-range tally.

Riot captain Fred Degand then was credited with a goal at the 2:28 mark of the third as his cross deflected off of a Comets defender and into the net to cut Missouri's lead to 10-6.

Radoncic pushed the Riot's run to 6-0 with an unassisted goal at the 6:47 mark of the third quarter to cut Missouri's lead to 10-8. Radoncic was double-teamed near the right corner, but he was able to turn away from the two Comets defenders and slot the ball past Missouri goalkeeper Danny Waltman. That forced Comets head coach Kim Roentved to use a timeout to try to halt Chicago's momentum. Radoncic didn't have to work as hard for his second straight goal at the 11:24 mark. Lukin provided a solid cross from the left side and Radoncic finished with the chip-in goal to tie the score at 10-10, extending Chicago's run to 8-0 after Missouri had dished out an 8-0 run in the second quarter.

But the Comets finally ended Chicago's run early in the fourth quarter as Lucas Rodriguez earned a breakthrough goal at the 30-second mark to help Missouri regain the lead at 12-10. Alvarez then garnered his fourth goal of the game as he maneuvered around Kletzien and Richey to take a 14-10 lead at the 7:08 mark of the fourth quarter. The Riot came out with the sixth attacker (Novi) for the final three and a half minutes, but the Comets continued to add to their lead with Beasley's second goal of the game at the 12:10 mark of the fourth to take a 16-10 cushion. Stokic then sealed Chicago's fate with a goal at the 14:23 mark to take an 18-10 lead. Chicago kept its sixth attacker out there and Radoncic scored his third of the game off of a Kletzien assist at the 14:40 mark to make it 18-12.



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FIFA lifts ban on Israel's soccer coach



FIFA has lifted its suspension of Israel national team coach Luis Fernandez. Fernandez was suspended by soccer's governing body last month because he had not obeyed a November 2009 disciplinary committee ruling regarding a

long-standing debt he owed to a club in Qatar. The debt has now been settled, and FIFA said Fernandez has been given the go-ahead to coach the team this month for the European Championship qualifiers. Responding to the decision,

Fernandez said: "I arranged things with FIFA so that I can be with my team. Now everyone has to have one aim, to get six points from the upcoming two games against Latvia and Georgia."

Slovak soccer great Jan Popluhar dies at 75

Slovakia soccer great Jan Popluhar has died. He was a member of the Czechoslovakia team that reached the final of the 1962 World Cup in Chile.

The Slovak soccer federation said in a statement that Popluhar died in a Bratislava hospital on

Sunday. He was 75. The cause of the death was not announced.

The central back anchored the Czechoslovak defense on its way to the 1962 World Cup final against Brazil, which Czechoslovakia lost 3-1. He was also on the team that won bronze at the 1960

European Championship and played at the 1958 World Cup in Sweden.

In 2002, Popluhar was chosen Slovakia's best soccer player of the 20th century.



Agent Denies Contact Between Inter & Real Madrid Over Maicon



The agent of Inter right-back Maicon has denied there is any discussion between the Nerazzurri and Real Madrid over the possible sale of the Brazilian during the summer transfer window. Maicon was the subject of countless speculation during last summer, linking him to a move

to the Blancos, but decided to stay. "For the moment, there have not been any contact with Real Madrid," agent Antonio Caliendo told Fichajes.com. "It is not the right time to be speaking about it. "Maybe in a month's time we will start to understand what the club wants to do during the summer

transfer window." The 29-year-old has a contract with the current Champions League holders until the end of next season. A figure of in excess approximately €25 million was unable to sway the Italian side to part ways with the right-back last summer.

USSF Has Contacted Marcelo Bielsa About Technical Director Role

The U.S. Soccer Federation has contacted former Chile and Argentina manager Marcelo Bielsa about taking up a role as technical director for the men's national team, according to a report out of South America. The report, coming from Argentine publication Tandil Diario, has yet to be corroborated by other sources, but suggests that Bielsa could make up to \$3 million per year in the position.

"We have always stated that adding a technical director, or a similar position, on the men's side is something we are

exploring," U.S. Soccer spokesperson Neil Buethle said to MLSsoccer.com, "but we have not made any decisions at this point."

The report claims that as technical director, Bielsa would have control over all aspects of the U.S. men's national program, including youth development, though Bob Bradley would remain as the head coach of the senior national team. Bielsa has also reportedly received more lucrative offers from Qatar and Saudi Arabia to coach those countries' national teams. The outspoken Bielsa is famous for

his attacking tactics and minute attention to detail on the soccer field. He led Chile to the Round of 16 in the 2010 World Cup, and has also coached the Argentina national team and won titles in Argentina with Vélez Sarsfield and Newell's Old Boys.



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City put brakes on spending

Manchester City chief executive Garry Cook has revealed the club are unlikely to repeat their big-money spending in the near future. City have continued to splash the cash in the transfer market since the purchase of the club by Arab billionaire Sheikh Mansour in 2008, spending a towering £127million on new players in just the last nine months.

Their latest acquisition came in the shape of £27million striker Edin Dzeko from Wolfsburg in January, while the Premier League giants have also brought in high-profile stars such as Jerome Boateng, David Silva, Yaya Toure, Alexander Kolarov, Mario Balotelli and James Milner.

City revealed in October they had made a pre-tax loss of over £121m for the last financial year, which goes against new Uefa regulations being brought in across Europe.

The strict financial fair-play rules mean clubs must work towards breaking even over the next six years or face being banned from competing in the Champions League and Europa League.

But City chief Cook insists the club are unlikely to emulate their big-spending ways now they have the quality to compete for silverware at domestic and European level.

He told the Daily Star: "As the club continues to assess the level of investment required to compete at the highest level, it does so whilst pro-actively engaging with all relevant stakeholders involved in the evolving debate around how to create greater commercial sustainability within football clubs.

"It is also fair to say that the scale of the club's recent investment in the transfer market is unlikely to be repeated in the near future now that the playing squad is of a sufficient quality and depth to be competitive in both England and Europe."



Mourinho escapes knife attack

Real Madrid boss Jose Mourinho has survived a knife attack in a Spanish airport which left his bodyguard with a 4cm stab wound.

Mourinho was moving through the La Coruna airport and signing autographs for Real fans last Friday when a man armed with a knife approached.

One of the Mourinho's minders thought he had been punched by the attacker as they moved through the crowd before discovering a wound near his armpit when they boarded the team bus.

Mourinho was only told about the full extent of the incident on Friday, a week after it happened. Police are investigating the attack using security camera footage from the airport.

El Periodico reported: "Mourinho stopped to sign autographs in arrivals, where a large number of Madrid fans were waiting for the team. The bodyguard was near the manager and noticed he had been stabbed in the armpit. Mourinho was very worried by the incident." The club said it suspects the attack was intended for Mourinho.



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Red Bulls fire assistants Williams and McAleenan

The New York Red Bulls have fired assistant coaches Richie Williams and Des McAleenan just weeks into a training camp.

The New York Red Bulls have fired assistant coaches Richie Williams and Des McAleenan just weeks into a training camp.

Williams was entering his sixth year with the Red Bulls as an assistant. He twice served as interim coach, first after Mo Johnston was fired in the 2006 season and also in 2009 after Juan Carlos Osorio resigned on Aug. 21. Williams also played as a midfielder with New York in 2001 and 2003.

McAleenan was in his 11th season as the team's goalkeeper coach. During his tenure years, he has tutored U.S. national team goalkeepers Tim Howard, Jonny Walker, Zach Wells and Tony Meola. The firings leave Jan Halvor Halvorsen as the only assistant. He joined the team in January after a career as a player and manager in Europe.

Defender James signs with Crew

Defender Julius James has signed with Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew.

To clear a roster spot, the Crew waived defender Kwaku Nyamekye. James, a 26-year-old old from Trinidad and Tobago, scored two goals in 31 games for D.C. United during the past 1 1/2 seasons. He previously played for Toronto and Houston.

Midfielder Jewsbury acquired by Portland

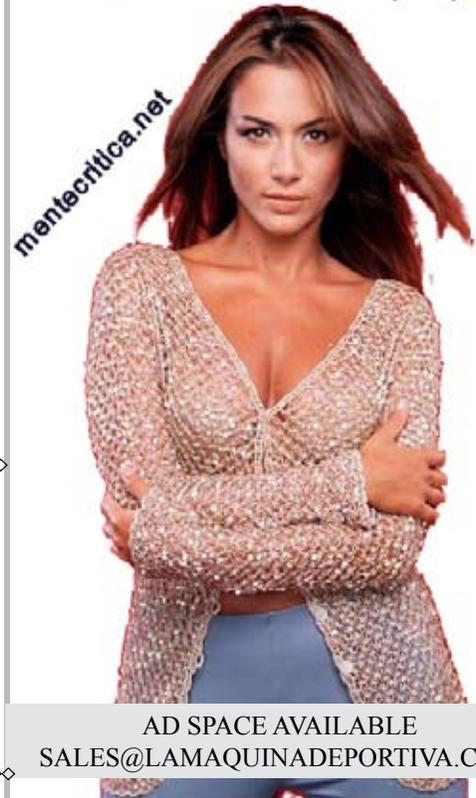
The expansion Portland Timbers of Major League Soccer have acquired midfielder Jack Jewsbury from Sporting Kansas City for allocation money. The 29-year-old had 15 goals and 21 assists for Kansas City during the past eight seasons, including two goals in 29 games last year. The trade was announced Tuesday.

Chicago Fire Sign Croatian Midfielder Marko Maric

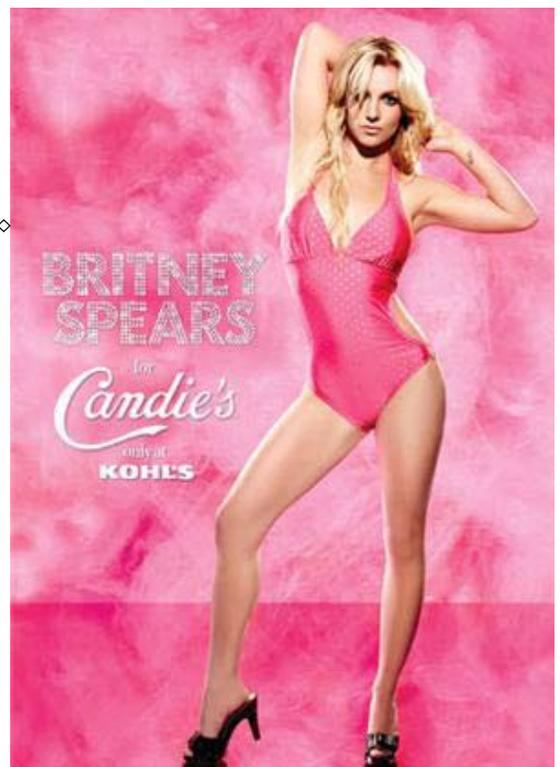
The Chicago Fire Soccer Club announced today the signing of 27-year-old midfielder Marko Maric. The Zagreb, Croatia-born midfielder will be added to the Fire's roster upon the receipt of his P1 Visa and International Transfer Certificate (ITC). Maric is the fourth international, and second Croatian player, signed by the Fire since the conclusion of the 2010 season. Per club and league policy, terms of the deal were not disclosed. "Marko is a tenacious, hard working midfielder with size and technical ability," said Fire Technical Director Frank Klopas. "We had the chance to evaluate him during our preseason camp in Florida and we're impressed with how he fit in with the group and will be good addition to our club."

Maric broke into the professional ranks at the age of 20 with Croatian club NK Zagreb, where he racked-up 35 appearances from 2003-2005. At the conclusion of the 2005 season, Maric departed Croatia for Greek club Egaleo FC. The sizeable midfielder tallied one goal in 41 appearances in a holding midfield role. After impressing in Greece, Maric moved to French club Lille OSC where he made five appearances and scored one goal. Maric joins the Fire on a free transfer from Greek side Skoda Xanthi F.C. where he made four appearances during the 2010.

Se la fanno ministro non si può più dire



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Police slam Old Firm ‘madness’

The Scottish Police Federation has called for an end to Old Firm “madness” after trouble flared once again at Wednesday night’s match.

34 arrests were made as Celtic beat Rangers 1-0 in the Scottish Cup fifth-round replay.

An SPL match at Celtic Park last month led to 16 arrests within the ground and more than 200 in the Strathclyde force area. SPF chairman Les Gray said police no longer had the budget to deal with match-related unrest, and he called for the derby to be played behind closed doors or banned altogether.

Mr Gray said: “We simply don’t have the money and resources to do this.

“Everyone involved needs to sit down and look at this. Something has to give. This madness cannot go on.”

Strathclyde Police said Wednesday’s night’s arrests were for a variety of sectarian, racial and breach of the peace offences.

Police had warned they would crack down on drink-fuelled violence linked to the match after trouble flared in the wake of the last Old Firm game.

On February 20, more than 229 people were arrested in the force area and in some cases prisoners were said to have been driven 50 miles as police cells filled up.

Mr Gray said consideration should be given to playing the matches behind closed doors or restricting the television coverage.

Speaking after the latest clash, which saw Rangers assistant manager Ally McCoist and Celtic manager Neil Lennon involved in angry scenes, he said: “What happens on the pitch is reproduced throughout Scotland, on the streets, in pubs, in homes.

“You cannot justify it. It can’t keep on going.”

Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill said the violence has more to do with alcohol and is less about football.

He said yesterday: “There is a deep-rooted and unacceptable social issue involved - which has a great deal to do with Scotland’s damaging relationship with alcohol, and little to do with football.

“The issue is far wider than clubs and the game. It is about a culture of violence fuelled by alcohol.

“By all means drink responsibly and safely but do not get drunk, get violent, assault your partner or anyone else - the message is that any such conduct is utterly shameful and unacceptable.”

Scottish Football Association chief executive Stewart Regan has also condemned “the inflammatory and irresponsible behaviour” at Celtic Park and confirmed an investigation has been launched into all incidents.

Regan said: “The Scottish FA categorically condemns the inflammatory and irresponsible behaviour throughout last night’s Scottish Cup replay between Celtic and Rangers at Celtic Park.

“As Chief Executive of this organisation, I was both saddened and deeply embarrassed to witness the scenes that unfolded during what is supposed to be Scottish football’s flagship fixture: these images were broadcast around the world and shows our game in a poor light.

“I acknowledge the pressures of expectation on both clubs but last night’s behaviour crossed the boundaries of acceptable conduct at a football match.

“We have already launched an investigation into all incidents that occurred and will do everything in our power to ensure there is no repeat.

“The events at Celtic Park, however, run deeper than the Scottish FA’s Disciplinary Procedures.

“The unedifying sight of two of the country’s most recognisable and respected coaches engaged in an angry confrontation was not only unsavoury but exacerbated an already incendiary atmosphere inside the stadium and throughout the West of Scotland.

“The clubs have a duty of care to ensure that the image and integrity of the game is upheld at all times.

“This was not adhered to last night. This week, Strathclyde Police reiterated their concerns over the heightening violence and public disorder around Old Firm derbies.

It is incumbent on Rangers and Celtic to ensure a far more responsible level of behaviour.

“In an age of austerity and financial hardship, football must try harder than ever in this country to restore its image as the national sport, extolling pride and passion. It fails in this regard.

“Last night’s actions - which culminated in three red cards and 13 cautions in total - also re-emphasised the ongoing lack of respect for our match officials.”

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Bellator 35 Debuts on MTV2 as Good, Hieron, Hawn, and Weedman advance to Welterweight Semifinals



Bellator Fighting Championships made its highly anticipated season 4 debut on MTV2, and the action certainly didn't disappoint. The night saw Bellator's Welterweight Tournament field get cut in half, with Brent Weedman, Rick Hawn, Jay Hieron, and Lyman Good moving onto the Bellator Welterweight Semifinals later this season.

"Weedman Nation" was on full display at the Tachi Palace Hotel and Casino, and the Bellator veteran didn't disappoint his fans, collecting a unanimous decision victory (29-28, 29-28, 29-28) over Dan "The Handler" Hornbuckle in a surprising upset victory.

The action rolled on as former Judoka Olympian Rick Hawk entered the cage against the UK's own "Judo" Jim Wallhead. While fans expected a judo heavy fight, it was anything but as Hawn showed off his improved striking game, eventually earning him a Unanimous Decision (29-28, 29-28, 30-27) victory over Wallhead.

In what was the most controversial fight of the night, former UFC and Strikeforce veteran Jay Hieron locked horns with submission specialist Anthony Lapsley. The two welterweights traded blows early, but near the end of the first round, Hieron locked Lapsley up in what seemed like a tight rear naked choke. After limited movement by Lapsley on the ground, the cage referee declared Lapsley had been put to sleep, and awarded Hieron a technical submission victory. A wide awake Lapsley was stunned by the decision, but Hieron was awarded victory and will move onto the Bellator welterweight semifinals.

The night's final fight saw former Bellator World Welterweight Champion Lyman "Cyborg" Good take on Chris "The Assassin" Lozano in the final welterweight quarterfinal matchup. Both fighters exchanged solid strikes early, with Good landing a hard hook to the left eye of Lozano that left "The Assassin" with a large mouse under his eye. While Lozano continued to battle, Good seemed to get stronger as the fight went on, and the judges agreed, awarding Good a unanimous decision (30-27, 30-27, 29-28) victory.

"We expected very close fights and that's exactly what we got at a sold out Tachi Palace live on MTV2," said Bellator Chairman and CEO Bjorn Rebney.

Official Main Card Results:

Brent Weedman def. Dan Hornbuckle by Unanimous Decision [29-28, 29-28, 29-28]

Rick Hawn def. Jim Wallhead by Unanimous Decision [29-28, 29-28, 30-27]

Jay Hieron def. Anthony Lapsley by Rear Naked Choke [3:39, Round 1]

Lyman Good defeats Chris Lozano by unanimous decision [30-27, 30-27, 29-28]

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About Bellator Fighting Championships

Bellator Fighting Championships is a Mixed Martial Arts promotional company headquartered in Chicago. Bellator's founder/CEO, Bjorn Rebney, is an experienced fighting sports and entertainment professional with a deep commitment to the purity and integrity of the sport of MMA and its athletes. Bellator Fighting Championships' executive team is comprised of top industry professionals in the areas of live event production, television production, fighter relations, venue procurement, sponsorship creation/development, international licensing, marketing, advertising, publicity and commission relations.

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Barca's Guardiola hospitalized

Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola was admitted to hospital overnight for treatment on his back problem. Guardiola has been suffering from acute lower back pain for the last few weeks but the problem has worsened in recent days and he was unable to attend team training. Guardiola, 40, sat on the Barca bench for Wednesday night's 1-0 league victory at Valencia, but the post-match press conference was taken by his assistant Tito Vilanova. Guardiola will again be missing for today's training session.

Barca, who provisionally moved 10 points clear of second-placed Real Madrid in the Primera Division table with their win at the Mestalla, play Real Zaragoza this weekend at the Nou Camp before next week hosting Arsenal in the second leg of their Champions League last-16 tie, where they will look to overturn a 2-1 deficit from the first leg. Guardiola has been diagnosed as suffering from a herniated disc, Barcelona confirmed on their website. A statement read: "Early this morning, Guardiola was admitted to hospital in Barcelona to continue treatment and study of his acute back pain. His medical examination has revealed that he has a herniated disc, and he will be treated with drugs and epidural injections. His release from hospital depends on the progress he makes."



Pele: 'Opportunity' for Michel Platini



UEFA President Michel Platini will run against Sepp Blatter for the FIFA presidency, Brazilian soccer great Pele said Thursday. "Maybe Platini will run for that," Pele said at a breakfast organized by the American chamber of commerce in Singapore. "Platini is already president of UEFA. It's a good opportunity." Platini and Mohamed Bin Hammam, a Qatari who leads the Asian Football Confederation, are considered the two strongest potential candidates to take on Blatter, who is seeking election to a fourth four-year term on June 1 as head of soccer's world governing body. Neither Platini nor Hammam have said they are seeking the post. Pele said he didn't want to be FIFA president.

Blatter's leadership came under criticism after FIFA last year selected Russia to host the 2018 World Cup and Qatar for 2022. "They say there was a little controversy about buying votes, but I wasn't there," said the 70-year-old Pele, who serves on FIFA's Football Committee with other retired stars such as Frank Beckenbauer, Bobby Charlton and George Weah. "We won very clean for the World Cup in Brazil but this World Cup (selection) I think there was a big problem there." Brazil will be hosting the 2014 World Cup, but Pele reiterated concerns that the building of the infrastructure for the tournament is behind schedule. "We have a little problem with construction, communication, airports," Pele said. "We have some political problems, which makes it a little complicated to do construction. Even in Sao Paulo, they haven't started the stadium because they have a political problem. This is not good for us." Pele was in Asia to promote the rebirth of the New York Cosmos, the team he played for in the 1970s. Pele is honorary president of the Cosmos, who plan to begin play in 2014.

NCAA keeps soccer tournaments split

The NCAA will keep the men's and women's soccer College Cups at separate sites and on separate weekends.

The decision comes after two years of debating whether to combine the events.

Proponents contended it would cost less money to combine the championships. Opponents argued that field conditions would be problematic and that it would could cause scheduling conflicts for conference tourneys and NCAA preliminary round games.

This year's men's College Cup will be held Dec. 9-11 in Hoover, Ala. The women's College Cup is Dec. 2-4 at Kennesaw State, north of Atlanta.

Both the men's and women's committees also recommended an increase in squad sizes from 21 to 24 and an increase in the official travel party from 27 to 30.



West Ham chosen for Olympic stadium



The British government and the Mayor of London have formally approved West Ham's bid to move into the Olympic Stadium after the 2012 Games. The Premier League club was selected last month as the preferred tenant for the \$867 million venue, beating a rival bid from Tottenham.

The decision needed to be ratified by the government and Mayor Boris Johnson's office, and the Department for Communities and Local Government granted that approval on Thursday. West Ham plans to downsize the stadium after the Olympics from 80,000 to 60,000 seats and use it as a multipurpose venue. It will fulfill Britain's promise to retain a running track at the showpiece venue. The Hammers hope to move into the Olympic Stadium in August 2014.

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Manchester City Suspend Kolo Toure After Testing Positive For 'Specified Substance'

Manchester City have suspended Kolo Toure after the defender tested positive for a 'specified substance'.

The Ivorian, who moved to Eastlands in July 2009, failed a test conducted by the FA. As a result, the 29-year-old is not permitted by the club to take part in any first-team or reserve matches until a legal process has been resolved.

The center-back will therefore miss Saturday's Premier League encounter with Wigan.

"Manchester City confirm that the FA has informed Kolo Toure that an 'A-sample' provided by him has tested positive for a specified substance," said a statement on the club's official website.

"As result of this, he has been suspended from participating in all first team and non-first team matches pending the outcome of the legal process.

"There will be no further comment from the football club at this stage.



Chelsea Manager Carlo Ancelotti Is 'In Negotiations' With Roma's New Owners

Former Roma star Ruggiero Rizzitelli has said that Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti is already in talks with the Italian club's prospective new owners, following rumours that the coach is set to leave Stamford Bridge at the end of the season.

Rizzitelli told the international media: "I believe there are negotiations with Ancelotti and Roma already. The new owners are negotiating with Ancelotti.

"But it all depends on how much money is available. If Ancelotti comes to Roma, he expects a competitive side.

"So we have to see how much cash the owners are willing to provide for him as he will need the money to bring in important players.

"It depends on the money, and qualification into the Champions League. I believe there are negotiations with Ancelotti."

The former striker added: "Ancelotti is a coach who earns big money, and so it's normal that he would have to reduce his demands to come to Roma. The club cannot permit themselves to spend crazy money for the coach.

"But Ancelotti could reduce his wages on the basis Roma would have to guarantee they would invest money on important players."



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FIFA to fund more goal-line technology trials

FIFA will fund additional goal-line technology trials after 10 systems failed to meet the conditions set by soccer's governing body.

The trials were ordered by FIFA President Sepp Blatter after he reversed his opposition to high-tech aids for referees following complaints about mistakes at last year's World Cup.

The systems tested at FIFA's headquarters last month - including the Adidas-owned Cairros microchip ball - were judged to be not quick or accurate enough.

FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke said Thursday the organization remains committed to finding the right goal-line device.

The sport's rule-making body, the International Football Association Board, will review the 10 results at its annual meeting on Saturday in Wales.

"The decision is: Do we extend the tests which we at FIFA are ready to do and ready to pay for?" Valcke said in Zurich. "Maybe (we will) do the next tests in England and in a stadium. If something is working then why not? Blatter was clear to the executive committee by saying if there is a system that's working we have to accept it."

Under conditions set by IFAB in October, any technological device would have to determine whether a goal had been scored within one second and be 100 percent accurate.

The most high-profile blunder at last year's World Cup in South Africa came when England was denied a goal against Germany. Frank Lampard's shot clearly crossed the line and would have tied the second-round game at 2. England went on to lose 4-1.

Hawk-Eye's camera-based system, which is successfully deployed in tennis, did not participate in the tests last month at FIFA House in Zurich because six cameras must be deployed in a stadium environment. Hawk-Eye, however, has been assured that it can participate in future tests if they are pursued by IFAB on Saturday.

The rule-making body includes four representatives of FIFA and one each from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Six votes are necessary for approval.

The Welsh and Northern Irish backed Blatter last year by voting to keep technology out of the game.

AP Sports Writer Graham Dunbar in Zurich contributed to this report.

FIFA pledges action on match-fixing threat

FIFA promised new rules to help stop national team games being fixed for betting scams.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter pledged tighter monitoring of referees' assignments as investigations continue into two suspect exhibition games played in Turkey.

"There will be new regulations for these international matches which are mostly ... organized only for betting reasons," Blatter said. "Football is a victim of our popularity but we have to protect the game."

Organizers of exhibition matches - for national or club teams - will need to submit referees' names for approval two months before kick off, FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke said.

FIFA and its confederations will have veto power "if we have any reason to think that the referee is not the right referee to be on such a game," Valcke said.

FIFA is investigating a Feb. 9 doubleheader arranged by a Thai-based company in which all seven goals were scored from penalty kicks awarded by low-ranked Hungarian match officials. Latvia beat Bolivia 2-1 and Estonia tied 2-2 with Bulgaria.

National team officials had alerted FIFA and the Union of European Football Associations two weeks earlier after the company refused to provide referees' details. The teams were advised to play in a near-empty Antalya stadium with meager television coverage. Hungary's soccer federation has since suspended the match officials. Valcke said FIFA also investigated a game between Bahrain and a fake Togo team last September and was aware of other possible fixes involving European referees sent to officiate in South America. FIFA will propose new statutes governing international matches at national and club level.

Changes to FIFA's official rule book can be agreed at its annual congress, scheduled for June 1 in Zurich.

FIFA also is backing International Olympic Committee efforts to coordinate world sports' crackdown on match-fixing and corrupt betting. Blatter said FIFA legal director Marco Villiger has joined an IOC working group that will submit proposals this year.

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STARS

STUDENTS TEACHING AND REACHING STUDENTS

STARS highlight's a few words from a special young lady Erica Aranda sharing her thoughts as a volunteer.

Erica Aranda a volunteer of STARS non-profit organization (Student Teaching And Reaching Students) and works with the Chicago Mercer. Previously having worked in Houston she acquired experience in organizing and participating in worthy causes like Rebuilding Houston.

She was intrigued to know the details of STARS Project program. She learned that there are nine high school scholars from Benito Juarez that go to Manuel Perez to work with their 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Each scholar has a group of 3 to 4 middle school students that they tutor and assist with their homework Monday through Thursday after school for the first hour, then spend the second hour doing various projects and activities. One of the most exciting projects they have done so far is build a robocar using household items! Their day consists of tutoring and guided activities facilitated by our liaison and college volunteers. Meeting with the middle school students for a period of 8 weeks evaluating their progress every four months throughout the academic year in order to provide that consistent support and mentoring required for academic success.

Once a month every Saturday, the students's parents participate in workshops surrounding family topics all while their son or daughter is participating in STARS career day. During career day, students are introduced to STEM Professionals, in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. Discussing the importance of attaining a degree, their experience as a student, and as a professional.

She was most impressed that the high school scholars take the time to prepare the younger youth for the emotional, social and academic transition into high school. The program also allows for these high school students to give back to their community by being a role model and being in a student leadership position. STARS is in their pilot year and therefore collecting data along the way in order to evaluate the impact the program has on their grades and on standardized test scores as well as their enrollment in college.

Thanks to the support and contributions of many people, organizations, including a board of directors that has dedicated much time and effort making this organization a success. STARS will continue to evolve into a citywide program that can help kids in many different ways.

Our next fundraising event is Friday March 11th 2011 at Cafe Mezcal. Enjoy a homemade Mexican Dinner including Chicken and Beef dishes, drinks, and live entertainment donation is only \$25. Continue to support our young STARS (see flyer).

All Donations Are Tax Deductible

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Friday, March 11, 2011

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DJ Hersh
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For more Info please visit us:
www.starsproject.com