

Vorm returns to Tottenham to cover Lloris absence



Tottenham's Dutch goalkeeper Michel Vorm grabs the ball

AFP | London

Tottenham have re-signed goalkeeper Michel Vorm on a deal until the end of the season to cover for the injured Hugo Lloris.

The 35-year-old was released by Spurs in the summer but has been unable to find a new club.

Lloris suffered a dislocated elbow in a humbling 3-0 defeat at Brighton last week and has been ruled out for the rest of the year.

Vorm has returned to the club to strengthen the goal-

keeping ranks, where Paulo Gazzaniga is the only fit senior professional.

A club statement read: "As a free agent, Michel has been able to re-sign outside of the two designated annual transfer windows and will provide additional goalkeeping cover following the elbow injury sustained by Hugo in the match at Brighton earlier this month."

Vorm initially joined Spurs in 2014 from Swansea and made 47 appearances in five years as an understudy to Lloris.

Tendulkar, Lara to play T20 tournament in India

Reuters | Mumbai

Batting greats Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara are among former cricketers who will return to the field for the Road Safety World Series in India next year.

The World Series will be an annual Twenty20 tournament played between retired cricketers from five countries - Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies and India.

Indian Tendulkar and West Indian Lara will be joined by former players including India's Virender Sehwag, Australian Brett Lee, Sri Lankan Tillakaratne Dilshan and South Africa's Jonty Rhodes for the tournament from Feb. 2-16 across India.

Tendulkar, 46, is the world's leading scorer in tests and one-day internationals, amassing more than 34,000 runs and 100 centuries in a 24-year career that ended in 2013.

Saudi, Palestine draw in landmark West Bank game

Saudi Arabia held to goalless draw by Palestine in landmark West Bank World Cup qualifier

AFP | Ramallah

Saudi Arabia's football team played Palestine in the occupied West Bank for the first time yesterday. The two met in a qualifier for the 2022 World Cup at the Palestinian national stadium in Al-Ram, playing out a 0-0 draw.

Cheered on by a packed and vociferous home stadium, Palestine frustrated their more prestigious guests and came close multiple times, but neither side were ultimately able to make the breakthrough.

With significant excitement over the match, all tickets at the 8,000 stadium were given away free on the day, with thousands in often disorderly queues to get in.

Hundreds of others watched from windows or roofs of buildings overlooking the stadium, which is only a few meters from the Israeli barrier that cuts off the West Bank from occupied Jerusalem.

Arab clubs and national teams have historically refused to play in the Palestinian territory as it requires obtaining entry permits from Israel.

The Palestinian football association described the Saudi team's arrival in the Palestinian territories as a "win-win" situation.

At the stadium, large Palestinian and Saudi flags had been



Saudi defender Ziyad Al-Sahafi vies for the ball with Palestine's defender Abdelatif Bahdari

erected on the building behind it.

"God, Palestine and Jerusalem is Arab," the fans chanted, with the stadium only a few miles from the holy city.

There were no Saudi fans at the stadium but pictures of Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman were erected alongside Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and his predecessor Yasser Arafat.

Palestinians in the West Bank have to go through Israeli checkpoints to leave and many

have little experience of the wider Middle East.

Wajid Waji, 20, was among a group of four young men wearing Palestinian football shirts

"It will be the first time I have seen a Saudi person in real life," he told AFP.

Only one of the players in the first 11 was from Gaza, the other part of the Palestinian territories under a blockade by Israel.

The winners of the two cups in the West Bank and Gaza are meant to play each other an-

nually but this year it has been delayed for months after Israel refused permits to most of the Gazan team's players.

The Palestinians had the first real chance, with striker Saleh Chihadeh hitting the keeper in the 10th minute.

The Saudis could have scored as well in the first half but Yahya Al-Shehri's strike was well saved.

In a second half short of chances, Palestinian substitute Khaled Salem flicked a shot over the bar in the final minutes.

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