Zeitschrift:	The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber:	Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band:	- (1982)
Heft:	1789

Rubrik: Swiss soccer

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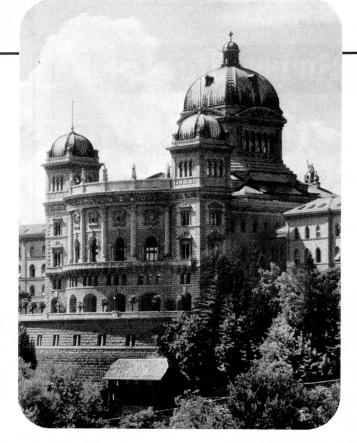
. . reporting from Berne

(the club was founded only in 1970) had shaken the soccer world by defeating such European elite as Sparta Prague, Sporting Lisbon and Malmo of Sweden. Even in the first leg of the quarter-final tie in Hamburg, Xamax twice held the lead before losing 3-2. But Hamburg forced a 0-0 draw in the return game in Switzerland to win on aggregate and reach the last four.

The Irish connection? Neuchâtel Xamax centre forward Don Givens, one of the driving forces behind the team's rags-to-riches rise, hails from the emerald isle. It was Givens who scored the first shock goal in Hamburg – and who then hit the post in the later stages of the goalless game in Neuchâtel.

The 32-year-old Irish international played previously with Manchester United, Luton, Queen's Park Rangers, Birmingham City and Sheffield United before opting for the continent when the Sheffield club was relegated to the 4th Division. He has a twoseason contract with Neuchâtel, but would like to extend his stay for another few years before retiring from the game and returning to settle in the Birmingham area.

How does he compare Swiss soccer with the game in Britain? "I would say that the best four clubs in Switzerland could compete very well at British level. But overall, footballers lead an easier life in Switzerland.



The fans are not so fanatic, and the players are under less psychological and physical pressure."

* * *

SWITZERLAND is to tighten its regulations on motor car exhaust emissions, Federal President Fritz Honneger has announced.

Speaking at the opening of the Geneva Motor Show, Mr Honneger said; "Since it has not been possible to work out on a Europe-wide basis regulations corresponding with our own conceptions, the government here is determined to strengthen controls concerning exhaust emissions".

The stringent new standards, which have been strongly criticised by manufacturers, will

take effect from October of this year.

Mr Honnegger said the motor car had become "the number one means of transport but also the number one environmental problem."

He added: "It is the motor car which makes the most noise and takes up the most space. It is also the motor car which, after air transport, uses most energy per person. The motor car gives us certain freedom but it also endangers our freedom to live in an intact environment."

In the long term, said President Honneger, the motor car only made sense "provided it is less harmful to the environment, and other means of transport are assured a proper place."

SWISS SOCCER

Football	League	tables	up	to	and	including	April	6	
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'A' Division Servette	Pl 21	W 17	D 2	L 2	Gls 62:21	Pts 36	'B' Division Wettingen	Pl 21	W 12	D 8	L 1	Gls 42:20		
Zürich	21	12	8	1	36:14	32	Winterthur	19	13	4	2	44:16		
Grasshoppers	21	12	7	2	44:16	31	Chênois	20	10	6	4	33:18		
Xamax	21	11	7	3	41:17	29	Grenchen	20	8	8	4	36:25		
Sion	21	10	6	5	39:26	26	Biel	21	7	10	4	33:28		
Young Boys	20	10	5	5	34:28	25	Lugano	21	9	5	7	40:32		
Lucerne	20	9	2	9	35:35	20	La Chaux-de-F	18	8	6	4	35:21		
Basle	21	7	5	9	29:30	19	Mendrisiostar	20	9	4	7	32:41		
St. Gallen	20	7	3	10	26:33	17	Ibach	21	6	10	5	29:31		
Vevey	21	4	9	8	28:35	17	Locarno	21	7	6	8	40:32		
Aarau	20	5	6	9	30:39	16	Fribourg	21	5	7	9	26:32		
Bulle	21	4	8	9	23:37	16	Berne	21	6	5	10	31:42		
Bellinzona	22	5	6	11	24:47	16	Aurore	20	4	6	10	18-46		
Lausanne	21	4	6	11	23:36	14	Altstätten	21	2	8	11	17:38		
Chiasso	22	3	5	14	14:51	11	Frauenfield	21	2	7	12	18:40		
Nordstern	21	4	1	16	20:53	9	Monthey	20	2	6	12	17:30		

Lines separate championship leader, relegation and promotion zones.